



KERRY UNDER PRESSURE OVER MIDEAST PEACE

Page 2



ARAB LEADERS AIR DIFFERENCES DURING SUMMIT

Page 9

Aruba **TODAY**

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Wednesday, March 26, 2014

BOMBS AWAY



U.S. President Barack Obama delivers the closing speech on the last day of the Nuclear Summit in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday, March 25, 2014. Thirty-five countries pledged Tuesday to turn international guidelines on nuclear security into national laws, a move aimed at preventing terrorists from getting their hands on nuclear material.

(AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

Hague Summit Focuses on Nuclear Trafficking

Page 3

Kerry races against deadlines for Mideast peace

LARA JAKES

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

ROME (AP)—Hoping to salvage foundering Mideast peace negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is interrupting a trip to Europe with President Barack Obama to press Israeli and Palestinian leaders to stick with the talks beyond an April deadline.

The meetings come at a critical time in the peace talks and against a looming April 30 deadline for a settlement. But the Palestinians have threatened to walk away before then un-

less Israel releases a batch of prisoners as it agreed to by March 29.

The State Department announced Tuesday that Kerry will travel to Amman, Jordan, to meet with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday. Kerry also will talk with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, likely either by telephone or videoconference, in the next few days, said deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf. Kerry is currently in Rome to join Obama at a meeting Thursday with Pope Francis.

Israel previously has re-

leased three groups of prisoners during the negotiations, moves that have been deeply unpopular with the Israeli public because the inmates were convicted of bloody crimes. But Israel has not said whether it will carry out the final release, which includes 14 Israeli Arabs, and is seeking assurances that the Palestinians will extend talks beyond April before doing so.

The Palestinians say Israel already pledged to carry out the release and are seeking additional gestures, such as the release

of high-profile prisoners or a settlement freeze before extending the talks. The U.S. has said it supports the prisoner release since it previously was agreed to between the two sides.

Harf said she did not immediately know Tuesday whether the U.S. believes the Israeli Arabs should be released, as the Palestinians have demanded. Asked if the peace talks could fail if the prisoners are not released, she noted that both Israel and Palestinian officials agreed at the outset to negotiate through April. □



Secretary of State John Kerry reacts as he arrives in a light rain in Rome, Tuesday March 25, 2014. On Wednesday Kerry will travel to Amman, Jordan to meet with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, Pool)

Malaysia releases details of last contact with plane

KEITH BRADSHER

EDWARD WONG

THOMAS FULLER

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KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - Malaysian authorities released new details on Tuesday of the last satellite communications by Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, even as furious family members and friends of the plane's passengers broke through police lines in Beijing and marched to the Malaysian Embassy.

Hishammuddin Hussein, the defense minister and acting transport minister, said the plane appeared to have sent a last, partial satellite signal eight minutes after a previously disclosed electronic "handshake" between the plane and a satellite at 8:11 a.m. on March 8. The incomplete signal represented a "partial handshake," he said. "At this time, this transmission is not understood and is subject to further ongoing

work," Hishammuddin said. The next signal from the aircraft was due at 9:15 a.m. but never came. Hishammuddin referred delicately to the likelihood that the cessation of signals came after the plane ran out of fuel, saying that the timing "is consistent with the maximum endurance of the aircraft." On Tuesday, relatives and friends of many of the 153 Chinese passengers on

Flight 370 gathered outside the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing to demand that Malaysian officials tell them the truth about the fate of the flight.

They went there despite assurances from the police that the Malaysian ambassador would come to their hotel to talk to them, an apparent effort to dissuade them from going to the embassy, according to people on the scene. □

WHO:

Any Ebola-like symptoms in Canada could be false alarm

DONALD G. McNEIL Jr

© 2014 New York Times

Reports of a patient in Canada who was hospitalized with "Ebola-like symptoms" after returning from West Africa may be premature, World Health Organization officials said Tuesday.

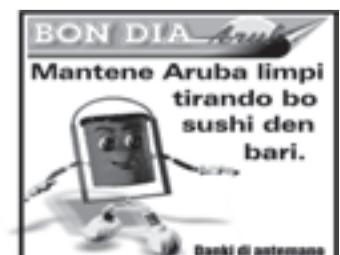
Health officials in Saskatchewan said a critically ill patient in Saskatoon had recently returned from Liberia. The patient has been isolated, and nursing staff are using gloves, masks and other protections to avoid infection through contact with bodily fluids, the officials said.

At a news conference in Geneva, WHO officials discussing an outbreak of the disease in Guinea, which borders Liberia, said preliminary tests on the patient in Canada had been negative for Ebola.

Canadian health officials said samples had been sent to the national microbiology laboratory in Winnipeg, and final results were expected Tuesday.

Southern Guinea is in the midst of an Ebola outbreak in which 59 of 80 suspected cases have been fatal. Reports of people with similar symptoms have emerged from neighboring regions of Liberia and Sierra Leone, but other diseases with a similar initial manifestation, such as Lassa fever or severe malaria, are more common in West Africa.

Although Ebola, which causes death from hemorrhagic fever, is terrifying, there have been little more than 20 outbreaks of it or related viruses since it was discovered in 1976, and all have been contained rapidly by isolating victims and those who have been in contact with them. □



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Obama to propose ending the NSA's phone call sweep

EILEEN SULLIVAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and some lawmakers are pushing forward with changes to a massive telephone surveillance program that has raised privacy concerns from Republicans and Democrats alike since it was disclosed last year by former NSA analyst Edward Snowden.

The changes would leave the bulk storage of millions of Americans' telephone records in the hands of phone companies, even though lawmakers are convinced the information now held by the government is protected and question whether the changes would actually do more to protect privacy.

President Barack Obama intends to ask Congress to end the bulk collection of Americans' phone records. Instead, the government would ask phone companies to search their records for possible links to terrorism. Details of the government's secret phone records collection program were disclosed last year by Snowden. Privacy advocates were outraged to learn that the government was holding onto phone records of innocent Americans for up to five years. Obama promised to make changes to the program in an effort to win back public support.

Obama said that any alternatives to the government holding onto the phone records posed difficult problems and raised privacy issues. And Republican Rep. Mike Rogers, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said he believes the data is safer with the National Security Agency, even though he recommended it be moved from the agency's custody. "We're changing the program based on a perception, not a reality," Rogers said shortly before he introduced legislation that would end the program in its current form.

Hague Summit focuses on nuclear trafficking

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — President Barack Obama declared Tuesday that a security summit took "concrete steps" to prevent nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists even though Russia and China failed to sign an agreement to beef up inspections.

One of the key results emerging from the two-day summit in The Hague was that 35 countries pledged

with Japan, Italy and Belgium agreeing to cut their stocks of highly enriched uranium and plutonium.

"This was not about vague commitments, it was about taking tangible and concrete steps to secure more of the world's nuclear material so it never falls into the hands of terrorists and that's what we've done," Obama said.

The U.S. president initiated a string of summits in 2010

of countries that have enough material to build a nuclear weapon has fallen from 39 to 25.

"I'll close by reminding everyone that one of the achievements of my first summit in 2010 was Ukraine's decision to remove all of its highly enriched uranium from its nuclear fuel sites," Obama said. "Had that not happened, those dangerous nuclear materials would still be there now. And the difficult

Notably absent from the agreement were Russia, China, India and Pakistan. North Korea and Iran were not even invited to the Nuclear Security Summit.

"We need to get the rest of the summit members to sign up to it, especially Russia, and we need to find a way to make this into permanent international law," said Miles Pomper of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. The plan unveiled by the foreign ministers of the Netherlands and South Korea and U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz involves countries adopting as law guidelines drawn up by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"The initiative shows commitment to take the lead when it comes to voluntary implementation of a number of IAEA recommendations and guidelines," John Bernhard, a former Danish ambassador to the IAEA, said.

"Hopefully, there will be an ambitious follow-up in the United States in 2016 aiming at the continuous improvement of nuclear security," Bernhard said.

Obama said fully securing "all nuclear and radiological material — civilian and military — so that it can no longer pose a risk to any of our citizens ... is essential to the security of the entire world."

He added that more still needs to be done.

"Given the catastrophic consequences of even a single attack, we cannot be complacent," he said. □



U.S. President Barack Obama, front left, and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, front right, talk as they pose for a group photo on the last day of the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday, March 25, 2014.

(AP Photo/Robin van Lonkhuijsen, Pool)

to turn international guidelines on nuclear security into national laws and open up their procedures for protecting nuclear installations to independent scrutiny. The summit also featured new reduction commitments,

aimed at preventing terrorists getting their hands on weapons-grade nuclear material. He hailed the progress made so far as a "fundamental shift in our approach to nuclear security."

Since 2010, the number

situation we're dealing with in Ukraine today would involve yet another level of concern."

Despite the progress made so far, analysts said Tuesday's key agreement on turning guidelines into law needs more support.

Biden, possible '16 hopeful, off to New Hampshire

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (AP) — Vice President Joe Biden was visiting New Hampshire on Tuesday, and the trip to the state that hosts the first U.S. presidential primary was stirring talk of a possible White House run in 2016.

The vice president has not said what his plans are for 2016, but politicians who visit New Hampshire invite speculation about their po-

litical ambitions. Prospective candidates in both parties have already begun to visit the state ahead of the 2016 contest.

Officially, Biden was in New Hampshire to highlight the White House's efforts to improve the economy. "I'm here about jobs, not mine," Biden said Tuesday when asked about his presidential ambitions while touring a business in Man-

chester.

Biden ran for president in 2008 but dropped out before the New Hampshire primary, which was won that year by another potential 2016 candidate: Hillary Rodham Clinton. Democrats across the state, including some that previously backed Biden, have encouraged Clinton to run. While in New Hampshire, Biden will also raise money

for three Democratic candidates who face re-election this year in a difficult climate for the party.

U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, who also faces re-election, does not plan to appear with Biden. The Republican National Committee issued a statement on Tuesday entitled "Where's Jeanne" that highlighted the Democratic senator's ties to the Obama administration. □



Birth control rule seems to divide Supreme Court

MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court struggled Tuesday with the question of whether companies have religious rights, a case challenging President Barack Obama's health overhaul and its guarantee of birth control in employees' preventive care plans.

Peppered attorneys with questions in a 90-minute argument, the justices weighed the rights of for-profit companies against the rights of female employees. The discussion ranged to abortion, too, and even whether a female worker could be forced to wear an all-covering burka.

The outcome could turn on the views of Justice Anthony Kennedy, often the decisive vote, as his eight colleagues appeared otherwise to divide along liberal and conservative lines. As the court heard the challenge brought by the Hobby Lobby chain of stores and others, demonstrators on both sides of the issue chanted outside in an early spring snow.

The justices upheld the overall health care law two years ago in a 5-4 ruling in which Chief Justice John Roberts cast the deciding vote in favor of Obama's signature domestic legislation. The latest case focuses on a sliver of the law dealing with preventive



Demonstrators in support of contraception coverage rally as snow falls outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, March 25, 2014. The court was hearing arguments Tuesday on whether corporations may refuse to provide insurance coverage for contraception to their workers based on the religious beliefs of the corporations' owners.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

services, including contraception, that must be offered in a company's plan at no extra charge.

The family-owned companies that are challenging the provision provide health insurance to their employees but object to covering certain methods of birth control that they say can work after conception, in violation of their religious beliefs.

The justices have never declared that for-profit corporations, as opposed to individuals, can hold religious

beliefs. The companies in this case, and their backers, argue that a 1993 federal law on religious freedom extends to businesses. Among the groups opposing the administration is the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. As it happens, Obama is to meet this week with Pope Francis. The Obama administration says it's not just about birth control, that a Supreme Court ruling in favor of the businesses also could undermine laws governing immunizations, pension tax-

es and minimum wages. Kennedy voiced concerns about the rights of both female employees and the business owners. He wondered what would happen if an employer ordered a woman who works for him to wear a burka, a full-length robe and head covering commonly worn by conservative Islamic women. He asked: Does the employer's religious belief "just trump?" One key issue before the justices is whether profit-making corporations may

assert religious beliefs under the 1993 religious freedom law or the First Amendment provision guaranteeing Americans the right to believe and worship as they choose.

The court could skirt that issue by finding that the individuals who own the businesses have the right to object. But the justices still would have to decide whether the birth control requirement impinges on religious freedom, and if so, whether the government makes a persuasive case that the policy is important and has been put in place in the least objectionable way possible. A decision is expected by late June. In another courtroom a few blocks away appeals judges grappled with an another issue that is crucial to the success of Obama's health care law, debating whether the government can subsidize premiums for people who buy medical insurance on exchanges run by Washington. In a blunt assessment of the health overhaul and challengers to the Affordable Care Act, Judge A. Raymond Randolph described the launch of the act as "an unmitigated disaster" while Judge Harry Edwards said opponents of the law are seeking "to destroy the individual mandate and gut the statute." The mandate is the requirement that nearly everyone have health insurance. □

US Navy: Shooting suspect didn't have own weapon

BROCK VERGAKIS

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP)

— A civilian approaching a U.S. Navy destroyer at the world's largest naval base late at night took a weapon from a sailor who was standing watch and used it to shoot and kill another sailor who was trying to help his embattled colleague, Navy officials said Tuesday.

Navy security forces then killed the suspect, who was authorized to be on Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia and did not bring his own weapon on base, according to Capt. Robert Clark, the base's commanding officer.

The identities of the civilian and the sailor who were killed have not been released.

No other injuries were reported from the encounter, which occurred Monday about 11:20 p.m. on the USS Mahan, a guided-missile. It wasn't immediately clear why the civilian approached the ship or if he ever had access to it previously.

The shooting comes months after a September incident at the Washington Navy Yard, in which a gunman — identified as a contractor and former Navy reservist — killed 12 civilian workers before being shot to death.

The Navy said the civilian was coming toward the ship's quarterdeck, which is traditionally the ceremonial entry point aboard a ship, when the struggle ensued and the civilian was able to disarm the Petty Officer of the Watch.

Clark said the identification found with the civilian indicates it is unlikely he was a military dependent authorized to be on base for that reason. He said the civilian was found with a TWIC card. According to the Navy's Military Sealift Command, a TWIC card is a transportation worker's credential card and is necessary to apply for any jobs with the command.

Military Sealift Command hires civilian mariners to crew its ships, including the hospital ship USNS Comfort,

which uses the same pier as the Mahan. Clark said it was unclear what exactly the civilian's job was or when he worked on the base.

The base was briefly on lockdown following the shooting, but traffic was back to normal early Tuesday morning.

The Navy will release both men's names after their families are notified, said Naval Station Norfolk spokeswoman Terri Davis. Aside from the pier where the Mahan was docked, operations had returned to normal at the base, with counselors available, the Navy said in a statement. But most enlisted sailors on the Mahan — docked at the first of 13 main piers — were not to report to duty Tuesday.

The shooting on the Mahan comes about a month after the Navy held anti-terrorism and force protection exercises on bases around the U.S., including an active-shooter drill at the Norfolk station.

To get on the base, civilians must be escorted or have identification that allows them to be there. Authorized civilians can include Department of Defense employees, contractors and military family members.

Each base entrance is guarded, and motorists present IDs. Inspections are rare. All 13 piers have additional security forces. As part of ongoing security efforts, handheld ID scanners were implemented this year at Navy bases in the region, including the Norfolk station.

The Norfolk base covers more than 6,000 acres (2,428 hectares) and is the home port for 64 ships, according to information the Navy provided in February. About 46,000 military members and 21,000 civilian government employees and contractors are assigned to the base and its ships, according to the Navy figures.

The Mahan, commissioned in 1998, has a crew of nearly 300. In September, it returned to Norfolk af-



Security personnel wait to inspect vehicles entering Norfolk Naval Station in Norfolk, Va. A sailor was fatally shot at the world's largest naval base late Monday, March 24, 2014, and security forces killed a male civilian suspect, base spokeswoman Terri Davis said.

(AP Photo/Mort Fryman)

ter a deployment of more than eight months that included being positioned in the eastern Mediterranean Sea for a potential strike against Syria.

Clark became Naval Station Norfolk's commanding officer in February, after previously serving as the installation's executive officer since 2012.

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Trying to Close a Knowledge Gap, Word by Word

MOTOKO RICH

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PROVIDENCE, R.I. - Amid a political push for government-funded preschool for 4-year-olds, a growing number of experts fear that such programs actually start too late for the children most at risk. That is why Deisy Ixcuna-González, the 16-month-old daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, is wearing a tiny recorder that

to the kitchen into a language lesson.

It is part of an ambitious campaign, known as Providence Talks, that is aimed at the city's poorest residents and intended to reduce the knowledge gap long before school starts. It is among a number of such efforts being undertaken throughout the country.

"When she grabs your hand and brings you to the re-

the poor and immigrants, do not know that talking, as well as reading, singing and playing with their young children, is important.

"I've had young moms say, 'I didn't know I was supposed to talk to my baby until they could say words and talk to me,'?" said Susan Landry, director of the Children's Learning Institute at the University of Texas in Houston, which has de-

home.

"In the same way that we say you should feed your child, brush their teeth, you should be stimulating their brain by talking, singing and reading to them," said Ann O'Leary, the director of Too Small to Fail, an initiative aimed at closing the word gap across the country. "We want to move the needle from this being an optional activity to a must-do activity."

O'Leary said Too Small to Fail would experiment with a variety of media messages in different cities. Starting later this spring, slogans like "Words bring your child's mind to life," "Talking is teaching" and "Feed me words" will appear on billboards, grocery carts and buses in low-income neighborhoods in Tulsa, Okla.

The goal, O'Leary said, is to emulate the success of other public information campaigns such as those intended to reduce crib deaths by persuading parents to put their babies to sleep on their backs.

Advocates for the poor say that improving the long-term academic prospects of disadvantaged children, much less their chance of escaping poverty, is a much more complicated proposition than some of these programs might suggest.

"When Hillary Clinton runs around trying to close the word gap, it's like fine, vocabulary is good," said Bruce Fuller, a professor of education and public policy at the University of California, Berkeley.

"But there is a deeper commitment to literacy and conversation around the dinner table and talking to kids about ideas and political controversies that is the more colorful fabric of

literacy and conversation." Here in Providence, where more than 85 percent of public school students are eligible for federally subsidized lunches and two-thirds of public school kindergartners are behind in recognizing basic language sounds or identifying letters in print, officials see Providence Talks as just one part of a larger educational strategy.

It is being funded by a \$5 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies, and officials hope that they can eventually secure some public funding.

"The more effective we can show that it is, the higher the possibility that you can get government funding for it," said Angel Taveras, Providence's first Latino mayor and a graduate of Head Start.

On a chilly afternoon this month, Stephanie Taveras (who is not related to the mayor) sat down with Deisy's parents. María González, who has a third-grade education and spoke her native K'iche' when she emigrated from Guatemala seven years ago, reviewed a bar chart that showed how many words she and her husband, Rafael Ixcuna, who packs fruit at a factory in the city, had spoken to Deisy on a day the previous week.

To help give parents feedback and provide data for researchers, the home visitors give each family - all of whom volunteered to participate - a tiny recording device, known as a Lena, that can be inserted into a vest worn by the child. The recorders distinguish between words overheard from television or other electronics and live human conversations. □



Stephanie Taveras, right, a home visitor with the Providence Talks outreach program, speaks to María González, a parent in Providence, R.I. The intervention program uses a digital word-counter to track language interaction with infants, part of an effort to close the "word gap" between children from low-income and affluent families.

(Katherine Taylor/The New York Times)

captures every word she hears and utters inside her family's cramped apartment one day a week. Recent research shows that brain development is buoyed by continuous interaction with parents and caregivers from birth, and that even before age 2, the children of the wealthy know more words than do those of the poor. So the recorder acts as a tool for instructing Deisy's parents on how to turn even a visit

frigerator and points to the cabinet, that is an opportunity for you to say, 'Deisy, are you hungry? You want cereal? Let's go look for the cereal,'?" Stephanie Taveras, a Providence Talks home visitor who also works with Early Head Start, told Deisy's mother in Spanish. "You do the responding for her now until she has the vocabulary, and she will be hearing you."

Educators say that many parents, especially among

developed a home visiting program similar to the one here in Providence. Close to a quarter of all U.S. children now live in poverty.

More than half of all children age 2 and under are cared for during the day by a parent or relative, according to a McCormick Foundation analysis of census data.

To reach those children, educators say they need to focus their efforts on the



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US Financial Front:

Home prices dip in January for 3rd straight month

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. home prices dipped in January for a third straight month, likely because of slower sales in recent months caused by cold weather, a limited supply of homes and higher mortgage rates.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index, released Tuesday, declined 0.1 percent from December to January, the same drop as the previous two months. That figure is not adjusted for seasonal variations, so the dip partly reflects weaker winter sales.

The index rose a healthy 13.2 percent in January compared with 12 months earlier. But that is down from a 13.4 percent increase in 2013 and is the second straight decrease. Most economists aren't concerned about the moderation in price gains.



Roofers install a roof on a new construction home in Pepper Pike, Ohio. The Commerce Department released new home sales data for February, on Tuesday, March 25, 2014.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

Home prices jumped over the past two years as very low mortgage rates pushed up sales. Meanwhile, the supply of available homes remained tight. Many homeowners couldn't sell because they owed more on

their mortgages than their houses were worth.

Meanwhile, investors swooped in and bid up prices in places like Las Vegas, Phoenix and other cities in the south and west.

"The home price apprecia-

tion we've been seeing is unsustainable," said Stan Humphries, chief economist for real estate data provider Zillow. "It needs to moderate over time or we risk inflating another housing bubble."

The Case-Shiller index covers roughly half of U.S. homes. The index measures prices compared with those in January 2000 and creates a three-month moving average. The January figures are the latest available.

Twelve cities reported price declines in January from the previous month. The biggest decline was in Chicago, where home prices dropped 1.2 percent, followed by Seattle, where prices fell 0.8 percent.

Las Vegas reported the biggest price gain, up 1.1 percent, followed by Miami, with 0.7 percent.

Compared with a year earlier, New York and Washington, D.C., posted their largest gains since 2006, just before the housing bubble burst.

The slowdown in price gains follows other signs that the housing recovery has hit a rough spot. Sales of existing homes in February fell to their lowest level since July 2012. And home construction slipped for the third month in a row, though builders sought the most permits in February than in any month in four years.

Mortgage rates are roughly a full percentage point higher than they were last spring, although they remain low by historical standards. The average rate on the 30-year loan is 4.32 percent, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said last week, down from 4.37 percent the previous week. □

Effort to rewrite US whiskey law fails

ERIK SCHELZIG

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — State lawmakers

on Tuesday decided not to rewrite the legal definition of Tennessee whiskey this session, meaning the rules supported by Jack Daniel's will govern other distillers in the state for at least another year. House and Senate committees voted Tuesday to consider efforts to rewrite or repeal the law in summer study panels after the legislative session ends. Jack Daniel's master distiller Jeff Arnett, who has heavily lobbied lawmakers to uphold the current law,

welcomed the decision to put off suggested changes like removing a requirement to age whiskey in unused oak barrels.

"We stand behind last year's law, we truly believe it's best for Tennessee whiskey all over the world," Arnett said. "And for the players who've located in the state of Tennessee, we need to uphold these quality standards."

The debate has pitched two global liquor giants against each other. Jack Daniel's which is owned by Louisville, Kentucky-based Brown-Forman Corp., first proposed the establish-

ment of a Tennessee whiskey last year. George Dickel is owned British conglomerate Diageo PLC, which led this year's attempts to dismantle that law.

Diageo vice president Guy L. Smith IV said he hopes the study committee gives serious consideration to changing the law.

"Rather than having one company dictate for everyone, we can do this the right way and come together in an open forum to discuss how to create the best standards for Tennessee whiskey," Smith said in a release. □

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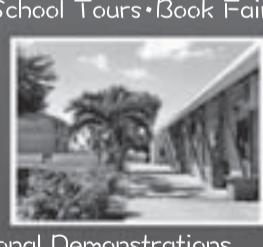
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America's consumer confidence springs forward

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer confidence has rebounded to the highest reading in six years, providing a further sign that the economy's prospects should brighten with warmer weather. The Conference Board said Tuesday that its confidence index rose to 82.3 this month from a February reading of 78.3. It was the strongest reading since the index stood at 87.3 in January 2008, just as the Great Recession was beginning. Conference Board economist Lynn Franco said consumers are moderately more upbeat about future job prospects and the overall economy, though less

optimistic about income growth.

"Overall, consumers expect the economy to continue improving and believe it may even pick up a little steam in the months ahead," Franco said. Consumer confidence is closely watched because consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity. The strength in the index this month came from an increase in consumers' expectations, which offset a slight decline in their view of current conditions. The number of Americans who felt jobs were hard to get rose slightly to 33 percent, up from 32.4 percent in February. Economists expect views about the labor

market to brighten as employers increase the pace of hiring. Employers added

175,000 jobs in February, far more than in the previous two months, and many



Mildred Miller pushes her cart full at the 14th Annual Wichita Adult Literacy Council Book Fair, in Wichita Falls, Texas. The Conference Board released the Consumer Confidence Index for March on Tuesday, March 25, 2014.

(AP Photo/Torin Halsey)

private economists foresee solid job gains ahead.

Many see the economy finally gaining momentum this year. The latest outlook from top forecasters at the National Association for Business Economics expect the overall economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, will expand 3.1 percent this year. That would be a substantial increase from last year's lackluster 1.9 percent growth. If that target is reached, it would be the best performance in nine years.

An 18-month recession ended in the summer of 2009, and the recovery since then has been achingly slow. But the tax increases and spending cuts that dragged on growth last year will be less of a factor in 2014, according to many economists.

Faster economic growth and more robust hiring would lift consumers' spirits and power stronger consumer spending, analysts say. That expectation for stronger growth, though, doesn't include the first three months of 2014, when severe winter storms raked parts of the country. The NABE forecasters expect January-March economic activity to expand at an annual rate of 1.9 percent but then recover to a 2.8 percent growth rate in the April-June quarter.

At its December, January and March meetings, the Federal Reserve trimmed its monthly bond purchases and indicated that the economy, as it gains momentum, will need less support through such bond purchases. Those actions have pushed down long-term interest rates, encouraging investors to remain active in the markets. □

Firm cuts US online gambling estimate 30%

WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Morgan Stanley lowered its estimate of the U.S. Internet gambling market on Tuesday to \$3.5 billion by 2017, down from a previous forecast of \$5 billion.

The Wall Street firm cited worse-than-expected technical issues in its projection, but said it's optimistic about the new industry's long-term prospects. It forecast an \$8 billion market by 2020 compared to its initial \$9.3 billion estimate.

"While we remain bullish on the online gaming opportunity in the U.S., we are lowering our estimates to better reflect the insights we have gained following the first few months of operations in New Jersey, Nevada and Delaware," the company wrote in a research note.

Morgan Stanley also said it sees the possibility of Cali-

fornia and Illinois legalizing Internet gambling this year. But it said it does not expect five other states — Colorado, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi and Ohio — to do so this year.

The estimates came a

day after New Jersey advanced a new Internet gambling bill to allow the state to enter into pacts with other states or countries to offer online betting. The current law restricts Internet gambling to players who are physically in New Jersey.

A New Jersey state Senate committee on Monday advanced a bill that originally began as a way to let New Jersey casino regulators oversee foreign Internet gambling firms if they moved their operations to Atlantic City. The bill was amended to also allow for New Jersey to offer the sort of interstate online gambling compact that Nevada and Delaware agreed upon last month. The bill, which next heads to the state Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, would deem any bets received in Atlantic City to have been placed there, regardless of a player's physical location, so long as Internet gambling is also legal where the player is located.

New Jersey began offering Internet gambling in late November. The casinos' online operations have won \$19.7 million in the first two months of this year. □



This screenshot shows a game of Internet roulette in Atlantic City N.J. On March 25, 2014, Morgan Stanley reduced its forecast for the U.S. Internet gambling market to \$3.5 billion by 2017, down from \$5 billion.

(AP Photo/Wayne Parry)

Arab leaders air deep differences during summit

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Arab leaders openly feuded over the region's most intractable problems at their annual summit on Tuesday, particularly the inability to resolve Syria's civil war and anger at Qatar for its support of the Muslim Brotherhood.

A day of speeches at an opulent Kuwaiti royal palace painted a picture of an Arab leadership crippled by divisions.

The Arab world's latest fault lines are surfacing three years after Arab Spring revolts swept the region, removing autocratic leaders in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia and collapsing into interminable war in Syria. The revolts empowered Islamist groups, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, though the group is now reeling after Egypt's military last summer removed Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

The region's two powerhouses — Saudi Arabia and Egypt — have declared the Brotherhood a terrorist organization.

They, along with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, withdrew their ambassadors from Qatar to protest against its support of the group and what they call its meddling in their internal affairs.

In the summit's first day, the Saudi Crown Prince, Kuwait's ruler and Egypt's president pushed for a joint approach to terrorism, saying it posed an imminent danger to regional secu-

rity.

The calls amounted to a way to pressure Qatar, which supports the Brotherhood, is home to many of its leaders and is accused by its Gulf neighbors of arming Islamic militants among the Syrian rebels. Egypt's interim president, Adly Mansour, called for Arab interior and justice ministers to meet before June to draft guidelines for what every nation must do to confront terrorism.

The implication was that Qatar will be held to any guidelines that emerge — and could face isolation or reprisals if it failed to meet them.

In a clear dig at Qatar, Mansour called for the extradition of wanted individuals — a reference to Brotherhood figures — and the "rejection of providing them with shelter and support in any form."

Qatar's leader, Sheik Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, fired back in his own opening address.

Tamim called on Egypt to start a "comprehensive political dialogue" to achieve stability.

The comment was a veiled criticism of the fierce crackdown on the Brotherhood waged by the military-backed interim government since Morsi's removal.

The Brotherhood, which denies being a terrorist organization, says the government is trying to crush it as a political rival. More than 16,000 people have been arrested and hundreds killed in the crack-

down, and most of the Brotherhood's leadership — including Morsi — is jailed and facing trials. Tamim also showed differences with Iraq's Shiite prime minister, Nouri al-Ma-

year, and Sunni extremists have seized control of the western city of Fallujah.

"It's about time for Iraq to emerge from the vicious circle of violence and differences," Tamim said.



Saudi Crown Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz, listens during the opening session of the Arab League Summit in Bayan Palace, Kuwait City, Tuesday, March 25, 2014.

(AP Photo/Nasser Waggi)

liki, who recently accused Qatar and Saudi Arabia of supporting Sunni militants in Iraq.

Tamim criticized the Iraqi government of discrimination against the country's Sunni minority, which often complains of being excluded from power by the Shiite majority. Iraq saw a wave of Sunni protests the past

"That cannot come about through the sidelining of entire segments of society or accusing them of terrorism if they demand equality and inclusion."

Al-Maliki stayed away from the summit. Vice President Khudeir al-Khuzaie, also a Shiite, led Iraq's delegation.

Addressing the summit late

on Tuesday, he rejected Tamim's charges and insisted that Iraq was a democratic nation that respected the rights of its ethnic and religious factions.

"We will never give up the freedoms we have struggled to win," he said.

Another split came with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The Qatari leader renewed calls for an Arab mini-summit to resolve differences between the militant group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, and Abbas's Western-backed Fatah group in the West bank. Qatar supports Hamas.

In his own speech to the summit hours later, Abbas snubbed the Qatari ruler. He poured lavish praise on Saudi Arabia for what he called its generous financial aid to the Palestinians — and made no mention of a proposal by Qatar's Tamim to set up a \$1 billion fund to help the Arab residents of eastern Jerusalem. Tamim said the resolution to set up the fund adopted a year ago was never implemented, so Qatar will go ahead to set it up on its own with \$250 million from its coffers.

Qatar, a tiny but petro-rich Gulf nation, as well as a U.S. ally and home to one of Washington's largest military bases abroad, has in recent years played an outsized role in Arab affairs, spearheading efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis, mediating in some of Sudan's internal conflicts and attempting to gain influence in Libya and Egypt. □

Leaders of Japan, South Korea come together at summit

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — President Barack Obama scored a small but significant diplomatic coup Tuesday by bringing together the leaders of key Asian allies Japan and South Korea for their first face-to-face meeting since they both took office more than a year ago. Most Japanese leaders meet their South Korean counterparts within the first year in office. The failure of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye to sit down with each other within that period of time has been a source of deep concern for the United States.

Knowing that all three would be in the Netherlands to attend the third installment of Obama's nuclear security summit, the White House arranged a meeting among the leaders. Obama played middle man, with Park seated to his right and Abe to his left. Addressing the media be-

fore the meeting, the leaders focused on the security threat posed by North Korea. But it is also no secret that diplomatic ties between Asia's two wealthiest democracies have been severely strained due to South Korea's lingering resentment over Japanese misconduct during World War II. That includes Japan's wartime system in which thousands of Korean and other women were forced to provide sex in military brothels, and suspicions of Abe's nationalist and revisionist tendencies. Tensions between the countries worsened after Abe in December visited a major shrine honoring Japanese war dead.

Obama said the leaders were united by "our shared concern about North Korea and its nuclear weapons program."

"Close coordination between our three countries has succeeded in changing the game with North Korea, and our trilateral cooperation has sent a strong signal to Pyongyang that its



provocations and threats will be met with a unified response and that the U.S. commitment to the security of both Japan and the Republic of Korea is unwavering, and that a nuclear North Korea is unacceptable," Obama said. A senior member of Obama's administration

said afterward that the issue of strained relations between Japan and South Korea did not come up during the meeting. The focus was on North Korea, and some regional security issues also were discussed, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the president's

private meeting. Since pulling out of six-party talks aimed at ending its nuclear program in exchange for financial assistance in 2009, North Korea has conducted a long-range rocket test, its second nuclear test and, most recently, multiple launches of short-range rockets. □

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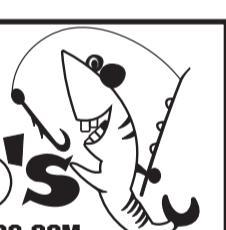
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Kabul: 5 killed as Taliban target election offices

AZAM AHMED
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KABUL, Afghanistan — With security concerns already mounting before the Afghan presidential vote, a Taliban assault team turned election offices in eastern Kabul into a scene of carnage Tuesday. After a firefight that stretched for more than three hours and trapped dozens of people in the compound, five victims lay dead and the Afghan capital had again been proven vulnerable. Two of the five attackers detonated their explosives belts at the gate of the compound, while three others rushed in armed with assault rifles, police said. Even as the attack was unfolding, the Taliban claimed responsibility, re-emphasizing their campaign to disrupt the April 5 election and punish those involved in it.

The victims included two police officers, an election worker and a provincial council candidate, officials said. At least six other people were reported wounded.

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry, Sediq Seddiqi, said police had responded quickly, rescuing more than 70 people trapped in the compound before killing the remaining attackers. The compound is near the home of a leading presidential candidate, Ashraf Ghani, who was not home at the time, officials said. "If the police did not respond in a timely manner, they could have massacred every one," Seddiqi said.

At the scene of the attack, it was hard to see how anyone survived.

Bombers' body parts and victims' blood covered the street and courtyard.

The building appeared a bombed-out shell, with bullet holes pockmarking the entire facade and the doors and windows blown off hinges.

The smell of gasoline and explosives filled the air, and the ground was covered in glass and bits of concrete torn from the building.

After months of relative calm in the capital, Kabul has again been the scene of troubling attacks in recent weeks, stirring up unease among Afghan and international officials here and raising questions about security for an election seen as critical to the country's stability after the Western military pullout by year's end.

Officials are hoping that the Taliban's campaign of violence will not be enough to intimidate voters from turning out for the high-stakes election. □



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Mexico: Pimp held kids to force moms to prostitute

MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican prosecutors said Tuesday they have freed two children held by pimps who used their hold over the young girls to force their mothers into prostitution in the United States. The raid last week in the central Mexico town of Tenancingo appears to confirm one of the most chilling allegations about the prostitution trade operated by organized gangs, which are able to force some women into sex for hire because they fear their children will be harmed if they rebel or attempt to escape. The pimps often woo the women with seemingly legitimate promises of love and marriage, father children with them, and then leave the kids with family members in Tenancingo, an impoverished town in central Tlaxcala state considered the pimps' stronghold. □

Venezuela:

Maduro says coup plot generals arrested

HANNAH DREIER

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has added three generals to the growing list of people and entities he accuses of plotting against him.

Maduro announced Tuesday that his socialist administration had brought three air force generals before a military tribunal on charges of plotting a coup amid the anti-government protests wracking the country. He said the generals, whose names he did not release, were working with the opposition and their attempt failed because younger officers became alarmed.

The announcement came during a meeting of South American foreign ministers aimed at easing the conflict between the government and its increasingly strident opponents.

Since taking office last year, Maduro has routinely accused opponents of plotting a coup like the one that briefly ousted his predecessor, Hugo Chavez, in

2002. He has rarely offered details or proof and few arrests have been reported. Recently, Maduro has called the protest movement an "evolving coup d'etat," and accused the

tion and rising crime have left dozens dead.

Analysts said the arrests do not necessarily mean Maduro's administration is losing ground with the Venezuelan military, which has



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro speaks at a meeting with a South American delegation of foreign ministers at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, March 25, 2014.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

United States of waging an "economic war" and supporting those who wish to do violence to Venezuela. The protests sparked by shortages, runaway infla-

historically decided political fortunes at moments of crisis.

The government might be publicizing the purported coup as a way to emphasize

size the need for unity, said David Smilde, a senior fellow at the Washington Office on Latin America.

"When you talk about conspiracies, it's basically a way of rallying the troops. It's a way of saying this is no time for dissent," Smilde said. The timing also allows the administration to portray to visiting dignitaries that Maduro's opponents are playing dirty.

Maduro has been careful to cultivate loyalty among the armed forces. His government bureaucracy is larded with former officers, and uniformed or retired military occupy a quarter of his Cabinet. He's also given troops a television station and showered them with raises in excess of double-digit inflation.

Smilde suggested the three generals might have been expressing dissent instead of plotting a full-blown government overthrow, given their small numbers.

"What does Maduro consider a coup? Students in the street is a coup for him," Smilde said. □



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Disney World among casualties of US-Venezuela spat

HANNAH DREIER

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— U.S.-Venezuela relations have been deteriorating for years, and for members of the socialist-governed country's better off, the failed diplomacy is suddenly endangering a dearly held value: Disney World. The U.S. Embassy announced Sunday it will no longer issue tourist visas to first-time applicants, the latest in what analysts consider a series of increasingly hostile, politically motivated gestures that the two countries have made since anti-government protests broke out in Venezuela five weeks ago.

Angel Pirela, a mechanical engineer at a government-owned oil refinery, worries the decision may prevent him from taking his 2-year-old daughter to Disney World. He had been thinking of getting her a U.S. visa at the same time he renewed his, but said his wife convinced him to wait until a calmer time.

It may be too late.

Pirela was among dozens of well-dressed Venezuelans waiting in the perennial line in front of the U.S. Embassy on Monday. As the hours passed, they discussed the horror of potentially losing access to the Florida shopping, clubbing and lounging that has long been a virtual birth-right of even middle class Venezuelans.

The embassy said it would no longer schedule appointments for first-time visas because it does not have enough staff after the expulsion of three consular officials by President

Nicolas Maduro last month and a delay by his administration in authorizing the arrival of other American officials. Both the expulsion of the diplomats and the limiting of visas seemed harsh to Pirela, though he put the blame on Maduro for provoking the U.S. "At first I didn't believe it. It's

and Chavez, Maduro's fiery mentor, called Bush a "devil" at the United Nations in 2006. The two countries have not had ambassadors in each other's capitals since 2010. But just as the protests have emboldened more Venezuelans to air complaints about inflation, short-

Venezuela frequently are followed by clashes between small groups of anti-government activists and security forces. Human rights groups say the unrest has caused at least 32 deaths and hundreds of injuries on both sides. U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said recently that



Supporters of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro walk near a life-size cardboard cutout of Venezuela's former President Hugo Chavez in Caracas, Venezuela.

(AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

the kind of decision countries make when they're at war," he said, sweating through a checkered button-down purchased in Miami, and fingering a cell-phone he bought there in 2012.

Experts say the policy change indicates relations between the two countries have reached a significant low. They haven't been good for years. The administration of U.S. President George W. Bush initially endorsed an unsuccessful coup against President Hugo Chavez in 2002,

ages of basic goods and high crime, the unrest has pushed both governments to sharpen their criticism of one another.

Rhetoric began escalating in February when Venezuela expelled the three U.S. diplomats, accusing them of organizing student protests as part of a "fascist" conspiracy with the opposition to topple his administration. The U.S. denied the accusations and reciprocated by expelling three Venezuelan officials from Washington.

Almost daily protests in

Maduro's tough response to the protests remind him of a time when "strongmen governed through violence and oppression." Days later Secretary of State John Kerry called Maduro's response a "terror campaign."

During a meeting of the Washington-based Organization of American States earlier this month, the U.S. was one of only three countries to vote against a resolution expressing "full support" for Maduro's attempts at dialogue with his opponents. □

CARIBBEAN

BRIEFS

Barbados says mandatory death penalty to end

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Barbados plans to abolish its mandatory death penalty for murder convictions — a penalty that the government has ignored for three decades.

No killer has been executed in Barbados since 1984 despite the law, but Attorney General Adriel Brathwaite told reporters Tuesday that the automatic penalty should be formally dropped.

He says the government is crafting legislation to remove the clause.

Human rights groups have long criticized the Caribbean island's mandatory death penalty as too harsh and in breach of international law.

Brathwaite says he expects there will be public opposition to the change because many people, in his words, "feel that once you commit murder you should forfeit your lives." □

Scientists plan to measure gases at St. Lucia volcano

CASTRIES, St. Lucia (AP) — Caribbean officials have launched a project to monitor volcanic gases on the island of St. Lucia and their impact on people and the environment. The University of The West Indies Seismic Research Center will help measure sulfur dioxide levels in the air and arsenic levels in the water in the town of Soufrière and nearby areas that are popular with tourists.

The Soufrière Volcanic Center on St. Lucia's western region features hot springs and mud baths.

University officials said Tuesday that the eight-month project was launched because of concerns about the possible effects of volcanic gases on children, the elderly and asthmatics. □

Forest fire blacks out downtown Caracas

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— CARACAS, Venezuela — A forest fire cut electricity to most of Venezuela's capital and officials were still struggling to restore power to some areas Tuesday, 14 hours after the lights went out.

The blackout paralyzed subway stations, forced workplaces to close and

snarled traffic. Downtown workers killed time in front of their office buildings while they waited for power to return even as officials' midday deadline to solve the problem passed. The blackout started late Monday night after a fire destroyed transmission lines, according to Electricity Minister Jesse Chacon.

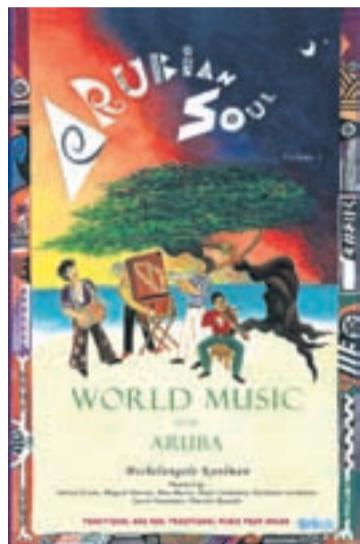
Officials believe the fire was set intentionally, in part because it began at 10 p.m., not in the heat of the afternoon like most wildfires.

The fire was still raging Tuesday in the dry brush of Waraira Repano National Park, which is a half-hour drive north of downtown Caracas. "We are very sorry for the inconvenience, but

that is what happens when these fires, apparently started on purpose, affect a public service," Chacon said. The socialist country suffered major blackouts in 2012 and 2013. The administration blamed the power outages on sabotage, while opponents said they were the result of government incompetence. □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Tuesday, April 1st: Arubian Soul featured in concert



ORANJESTAD - That Aruba has many local musical talents is known under the public, especially during carnival season when all these artists are featured on the giant bandwagons. But what about fea-

turing local musicians in a collaboration album? And providing them a proper platform such as our local theatre?

That is what Arubian Soul is all about. Next week Tuesday the 1st of April, Cas di Cultura will host the first ever Arubian Soul concert which will showcase the artists that have worked on the eponymous album produced with the financial support of Unoca.

Famous local talents such as Michelangelo Koolman (singer), known for his hit song at the moment "Mundo ta un milager." Martin Buitenweg who has done most of the guitar arrangements on the album, Miguel Genser, who is not only famous for his vocal

and songwriting skills but he is also the star of the current hit movie "Abo So" playing in local theatres this week, are just a few of these talents performing this night. Other musicians featured are Ron Martis performing the song "mi kier sa" Jelitza Croes featured in the Tumba-rythmed song "Mihor nos separa", Chantal Quandt featured in the song "Un Bon Muhe" and Ruthjean Landaeta Helder and her husband Rajiv Landaeta will be performing together in the songs "Awe te cos" and the Antillean Waltz "Aruba ta mi cas". Tickets for this fabulous Arubian Soul night are available at Cas Di Cultura. Date and Time: Tuesday, April 1st, 8:00-10:00pm.□



Aruba Marriott Resort A Proud Partner of The First E-Aruba Seminar

PALM BEACH - The Aruba Marriott Resort is pleased to be a partner of the first E-Aruba Seminar, an event aimed at educating the public on new social media, digital marketing and entrepreneurship trends.

"Supporting the E-Aruba Seminar is part of Aruba Marriott's ongoing commitment to staying up-to-date with digital trends in order to continue to cater to the younger, tech savvy travelers of today, which is a significant market on the rise for the hospitality industry", highlighted Keirsin Tjon Pian Gi, PR & eCommerce Manager for Aruba Marri-

ott Resort. The seminar will take place on Saturday, April 5th at the Renaissance Convention Center and will host three recognized international speakers; Andres Barreto, Richard Pollack and Ramon Ray, who will share their vast expertise on social media, digital marketing trends and entrepreneurship. The Aruba Marriott Resort invites all business owners, entrepreneurs, professionals, students and everyone interested in learning more about these topics to attend the first E-Aruba Seminar! Visit www.e-aruba.com/register to register.□

Pica 96.5% continues to have fun on the air



PALM BEACH - Three local radio personalities, Jacqueline Suttle, Tabitha Feccunda and Rona Coster host a morning radio show on Magic 96.5FM, the program and its entertaining and diverse topics continue to surprise listeners with fresh commentary and original thinking with music by DJ Vibe!

Nicknamed Pica 1, Pica 2 and Pica 3, the trio of spicy ladies dealt with a great number of subjects just recently. The debated whether death of a loved one must influence life's

pre-planned events, they weighed in with the risk of drinking while pregnant, they elaborated on women doing classic men's jobs such as construction, law enforcement and security, they discussed how we react when we see someone with a scar, a handicapped or a deformity, they paired several wines with delicious food, guided by Romar Trading, and as customary on Wednesdays enjoyed some love-related topics such as can we teach our-



Beauty On The Beach

**Laurra
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She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba. She is staying at the Radisson Beach Resort. What she loves most of Aruba is the weather and the beach.

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selves to fall out of love, and can we love two people at the same time.

The program, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 11am, continues to draw laughs from listeners who enjoy the picas interaction and chemistry. In March and April some of the topics on their agenda will include the question whether Aruba should have a law to deport criminal offenders, they will discuss age-weight-height appropriate hairdos and make up, and ask themselves if they should lobby for maternity leave for men, besides perks of authenticity, and why it always pays to be themselves!

This coming Wednesday they will tackle body lan-

guage, how one can tell that a man or woman is interested, and runaway brides and grooms.

You are invited to tune in, on 96.5FM, at 11am on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Pica 96.5% is supported by Romar Trading and WHISKEY MOMENTS with Johnny Walker Black Label, Johnny Walker Double Black, Old Parr and Buchanan Whiskey; Caribbean Mercantile Bank, and Fresh Start Loans; Fusion restaurant and wine bar with live entertainment; Pantene hair care by Compra NV, featuring personalized hair care series; Dentyne, and Practice Safe Breath, Nivea and Neutrogena products for body, bath, lip and men's care. □

From Chicago to Sopranos Piano Bar in Aruba!

PALM BEACH - Meet these folks from Chicago. Normally it is supposed to be the Windy City, but these past few months, it's been the Ice Cold & Windy City! Having suffered from one vortex after another, John, Mary and Andrew decided to make the great escape and fly down to Aruba where the notice of cold only applies to the ice chest full of cold drinks. They have been coming to the island for the past five years and have chosen Sopranos Piano Bar as their favorite night spot. Every night they enjoy singing-along with the international Piano players, having a drink and interacting with the crowd.

The Sopranos bar staff would like to say thanks to John, Mary and Andrew for being their regular guests on their vacation nights on the island. □



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Dodgers top spender, ending Yanks' 15-year streak

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Zack Greinke and the Los Angeles Dodgers have knocked Alex Rodriguez and the New York Yankees off baseball's payroll perch, part of an offseason spending spree that has the average salary approaching \$4 million for the first time.

The Dodgers are ending the Yankees' 15-year streak as baseball's biggest spenders and as of Tuesday had a projected payroll of \$235 million, according to study of all major league contracts by The Associated Press.

New York, which last failed to top the payroll rankings in 1998, was a distant second at \$204 million. After that, it was another huge gap to Philadelphia at \$180 million, followed by Boston at \$163 million and Detroit at \$162 million.

Continued on Page 21



In this Monday, Feb. 10, 2014 file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke throws during spring training baseball practice in Glendale, Ariz. **Associated Press**



San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) is pressured by 76ers' Thaddeus Young, left, and Hollis Thompson, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 24, 2014, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Austin Daye had 22 points and Tim Duncan added 19 as the San Antonio Spurs earned their 14th straight win with a 113-91 victory Monday that sent the Philadelphia 76ers to their 25th

consecutive loss. Philadelphia will face Houston on Thursday with the dubious distinction of being a loss shy of tying the NBA record for consecutive losses set by the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2010-11.

Spurs win 14th straight, 76ers' lose 25 straight

Kawhi Leonard and Patty Mills scored 15 points each and Cory Joseph added 12 for San Antonio, which maintained the league's best record at 54-16. The Spurs did not play starters Tony Parker, Tiago Splitter and Danny Green, but did not need them against the lowly 76ers.

Thaddeus Young and Michael Carter-Williams each scored 19 points, Byron Mullens added 15 and Elliot Williams had 14 for Philadelphia (15-56).

HEAT 93, TRAIL BLAZERS 91
MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James scored 32 points, including a layup with 11.4 seconds left, and Chris Bosh capped his 30th birthday

by blocking Damian Lillard's layup in the final moments as the Miami Heat escaped with a win over the Portland Trail Blazers. Bosh finished with 15 points and Chris Andersen had 13 points and 11 rebounds for Miami, which won for just the fifth time in 12 games. Mario Chalmers added 11 points for the Heat.

Lillard led the Blazers with 19 points on 3-for-15 shooting. Mo Williams scored 17, Wes Matthews had 15, Nicolas Batum 11 and Robin Lopez 10 for Portland, which was down 17 with just more than 9 minutes remaining.

ROCKETS 100, BOBCATS 89
CHARLOTTE, North Caro-

lina (AP) — James Harden scored 31 points and Dwight Howard had a double-double in his return to the court as the Houston Rockets defeated the Charlotte Bobcats for their fourth straight win.

Harden had 14 points in the pivotal third quarter and finished 11-of-19 from the field. Terrence Jones added 18 points and seven rebounds in the victory. Howard had missed the previous three games with an ankle injury, but Houston won all three without him by an average of 23 points. He finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Continued on Page 21

Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson dies at 95

By JOHN WAWROW

AP Sports Writer

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) -- Ralph Wilson, the Buffalo Bills owner who helped found the American Football League in 1960 and played a key role in the merger with the NFL, died Tuesday. He was 95. Wilson died at his home in Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich., said Mary Mazur, spokeswoman for the Wayne County medical examiner's office. He had been receiving home hospice care.

Bills President Russ Brandon announced the death at the NFL meetings in Orlando, Fla. Wilson gave up daily oversight of the club on Jan. 1, 2013, when he relinquished the president's title to Brandon.

Wilson was the founder and sole owner of the Bills after establishing the team with the upstart AFL. He was inducted into the Football Hall of Fame in 2009.

"Ralph Wilson was a driving force in developing pro football into America's most popular sport,"

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "Ralph always brought a principled and common-sense approach to issues."

Wilson had been in failing health for several years after hip surgery in 2011. Though he spent much of his time at his home in suburban Detroit, he attended Hall of Fame induction weekends. He was a regular at Bills home games since founding the franchise, but had not been there since going to one game in 2010.

"No one loves this game more than Ralph Wilson," Brandon said in a statement. "It's very tough. What he's meant to the entire organization. He's our leader, our mentor our friend. How he loves his players and loved our community. Special guy. They just don't make them like Ralph Wilson."

Wilson was deemed the "conscience" of the NFL for his loyalty to fans and the stands he took against franchise relocation.

Penguins' Malkin out 2-3 weeks with injury



PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Penguins center Evgeni Malkin will miss two to three weeks while recovering from a foot injury.

Coach Dan Bylsma says the former NHL MVP was hurt during his first shift in Sunday's 1-0 loss to St. Louis. Malkin played the rest of the game but did not practice on Monday. The Penguins would not say which foot was injured.

Malkin is seventh in the league with 72 points despite missing 11 games for various reasons.

Malkin had been playing some of his best ice hockey of the season before the injury, with four goals in three games. Bylsma said Malkin does not require surgery and the team anticipates the Russian being ready when the playoffs start on April 16. □

"He didn't let anyone pull anything off in him. He was very forceful," New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson said.

Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank called him a "visionary and pioneer of professional football" whose "lasting impact on the NFL will forever be felt."

Wilson's one regret was the Bills' inability to win a Super Bowl. They came close in the early 1990s, when the Marv Levy-coached and Jim Kelly-quarterbacked teams won four consecutive AFC championships from 1990-93, but lost each time.

It's a \$271 million deal, of which \$130 million will be



In this Nov. 1, 2009, file photo, Buffalo Bills' owner Ralph Wilson Jr. holds up his Hall of Fame ring during a halftime NFL football ceremony against the Houston Texans in Orchard Park, N.Y.

Associated Press

committed to upgrading an aging stadium that opened in 1973.

The agreement includes a provision that essentially locks in the Bills through the first seven seasons. The

franchise would have to pay \$400 million if it decides to leave before 2019. The team then has an option of buying out the remaining three years of the lease for \$28 million. □

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NHL Capsules

Canadiens stop Bruins' 12-game win streak

BOSTON (AP) — Alex Galchenyuk scored the only shootout goal as the Montreal Canadiens stopped the Boston Bruins' 12-game winning streak with a 2-1 victory Monday.

The Bruins fell one game short of their longest winning streak since 1970-71 and two shy of the club record set in 1929-30. But their one point from the shootout loss moved them ahead of Western Conference-leading St. Louis for the most in the NHL with 104.

Boston tied it at 1 with just two seconds left on its sixth power play of the game. Dougie Hamilton's slap shot from the center of the blue line deflected off Patrice Bergeron and past goalie Peter Budaj with 5:26 left in the third period. It was Bergeron's 23rd goal of the season.

Montreal grabbed the lead on Alexei Emelin's third goal of the season at 6:39 of the first. Emelin's shot from the blue line deflected off Bruins forward Chris Kelly about 30 feet from the net and rose over the glove of goalie Tuukka Rask.

The win moved Montreal ahead of Tampa Bay and into third place in the East-



Boston Bruins right wing Shawn Thornton, left, tangles with Montreal Canadiens defenseman Andrei Markov (79) during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, March 24, 2014, in Boston. Associated Press

ern Conference.

FLAMES 2, SHARKS 1, SO

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — San Jose clinched a playoff spot by getting a point in a shootout loss to Calgary. Mike Cammalleri scored the only goal in the shootout for Calgary.

Cammalleri moved in from the right wing and went short side on Alex Stalock, setting off a roar from the Saddledome crowd.

Karri Ramo, who finished

with 33 saves, stopped Patrick Marleau, Joe Pavelski and James Sheppard for the win.

Joe Colborne scored in regulation for Calgary. The Flames have won 10 of their past 13 on home ice. Sheppard scored in regulation for San Jose, which had its four-game road winning streak end.

San Jose increased its lead atop the Pacific Division to two points over Anaheim.

The Ducks have two games in hand.

RANGERS 4, COYOTES 3, OT

NEW YORK (AP) — Ryan McDonagh scored off a rebound of Dan Girardi's shot 1:56 into overtime, completing the Rangers' surprising rally.

McDonagh put the puck past backup goalie Thomas Greiss, who relieved injured starter Mike Smith in the third period and then

Dodgers

Continued from page 18

Houston is last at \$45 million, up from \$27 million at the start of last year, and Miami at \$48 million remains 29th.

Some large-market teams are among the smaller spenders, with the New York Mets and Chicago Cubs projected at \$89 million, ranked 22nd and 23rd. Rodriguez, who holds the record for the largest deal in baseball history at \$275 million over 10 years, is suspended for the season for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract. Because of the ban, he will earn only \$3,868,852 of his \$25 million salary - 21 days pay for the 183-day season.

Greinke would have become the highest-paid player, even if Rodriguez was getting all his cash. The pitcher has a \$24 million salary in the second season of his \$147 million, six-year contract, and because he can opt out of the deal after the 2015 season, baseball's accounting rules call for his \$12 million signing bonus to be prorated over the first three seasons.

"We've got great ownership and a great fan base, and we need to do what we can to win games," Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti said last week in Sydney, where Los Angeles swept its opening, two-game series against Arizona. As of Tuesday, the average salary projected to be between \$3.95 million and \$4 million, with the final

figure depending on how many players are put on

finalized on Sunday. That translates to a rise of 8 to



In a Aug. 20, 2013 file photo, New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez singles during the sixth inning of the baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

the disabled list by the time opening-day rosters are

10 percent from last year's opening average of \$3.65

gave up the tying and winning goals. Girardi got the Rangers even with 3:28 left in regulation when he tipped in a drive by his defense partner McDonagh. Brad Richards and Derick Brassard scored in the second period when New York erased a 2-0 deficit Phoenix built in the first. Henrik Lundqvist made 18 saves on a night he was honored for recently breaking Rangers career marks for wins and shutouts.

The Rangers' fourth straight win pushed them one point ahead of Philadelphia and into second place in the Metropolitan Division.

KINGS 3, FLYERS 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Dwight King scored a tie-breaking goal midway through the third period, leading Los Angeles to the win.

Jeff Carter and Justin Williams scored in the second for the Kings, who won their third straight and 11th in 14 games while remaining in third place in the Pacific Division.

Matt Read and Jakub Voracek had Philadelphia's goals. The Flyers had won five in a row. They dropped to 12-3-1 in their last 16 games. □

million and would be the largest increase since 2006 or possibly even 2001.

"I'm not surprised. With the type of revenues clubs are enjoying these days, the average salaries are going to go up," New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said.

Illustrating the rate of escalation, the opening-day average was \$1.07 million when Derek Jeter first reached the major leagues in 1995, broke the \$2 million mark in 2001 and spurted past \$3 million in 2008.

Following Greinke on the highest-paid list are Philadelphia's Ryan Howard and Cliff Lee at \$25 million, the Yankees' CC Sabathia at \$24.3 million, and Seattle's Robinson Cano and Texas' Prince Fielder at \$24 million each. □



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Murray, Djokovic to meet again at Key Biscayne

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP)

— Andy Murray heard a fan clamoring for a souvenir towel and tried to oblige by tossing one toward the courtside seats.

His throw fell way short. That was about the only mistake Murray made Tuesday at the Sony Open.

Even with his surgically repaired back still nowhere near perfect, the defending champion continued his roll at Key Biscayne. He needed only 73 minutes to beat Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-4, 6-1 and set up a quarterfinal with Novak Djokovic — their first meeting since Murray won the Wimbledon final last summer.

"My game is getting there," said Murray, the No. 6 seed, who acknowledged he was dealing with a sore back. "The last six sets I've played, very high-level tennis, very few errors." He'll need to keep it that way against Djokovic, who eased past Tommy Robredo 6-3, 7-5.

The second-seeded Djokovic even gave back a point in the second set. A groundstroke from Robredo clipped the baseline and Djokovic couldn't han-

dle it, but the ball was erroneously called out. After a review showed the ball was in, the point was ordered to be replayed.

Djokovic shouted "It's OK, it's OK" as the fans applauded his sportsmanship. "For me, it's something that is part of the sport, fair play," Djokovic said.

"I expect everybody else to do the same. Of course, not everybody's the same, but for me,

that's something that's normal. Just a normal, natural reaction."

Singles players with a combined 66 Grand Slam victories were in action on Tuesday, including Roger Federer — a winner of 17 of them himself.

And he looked very much like the Federer of old, needing only 49 minutes to beat ninth-seeded Richard Gasquet 6-1, 6-2.

Federer, the No. 5 seed, had 25 winners to Gasquet's eight, converted five of his six break chances and won 92 percent of his first-serve points in the second set.

Next up for Federer is 20th-seeded Kei Nishikori, who upset No. 4 David Ferrer 7-6 (7), 2-6, 7-6 (9).

Ferrer had beaten Nishikori



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, gestures during his match against Tommy Robredo at the Sony Open Tennis tournament, Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in Key Biscayne, Fla. Djokovic won 6-3, 7-5.

Associated Press

in the same round at Key Biscayne a year ago, their most recent meeting before Tuesday.

No. 22 Alexandr Dolgopolov of the Ukraine also pulled off an upset, toppling third-seeded Stanislas Wawrinka 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 to reach the quarterfinals.

On the women's side, Maria Sharapova rallied from a break down in the first set to oust Petra Kvitova 7-5, 6-1 and earn a spot in the semifinals. She's been a finalist at Key Biscayne five times, but never the champion.

"I love the energy here," she said.

The fourth-seeded Sharapova will face defending champion Serena Williams or Angelique Kerber in the semis. Sharapova, who needed three-setters to get through her two most recent matches at Key Biscayne, feasted on 30 unforced errors by the eighth-seeded Kvitova. Sharapova won 11 of the final 13 games.

Williams and Rafael Nadal headlined the night matches.

Also, former No. 1 Martina Hingis teamed with Sabine Lisicki to reach the doubles quarterfinals. □

NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 18

Kemba Walker had 22 points and Al Jefferson had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Charlotte, which lost for only the second time in 11 games at home.

SUNS 102, HAWKS 95

ATLANTA (AP) — Eric Bledsoe scored 20 points to lead five Phoenix players in double figures as the Suns won their fourth in a row, beating the Atlanta Hawks to pull even with Dallas for the final playoff spot in the

Western Conference. The Suns buried the Hawks from 3-point range, knocking down 12-of-24 beyond the arc. Bledsoe made all three of his long-range attempts, while Channing Frye was 4-of-9 to account for the bulk of his 18 points. Goran Dragic had 19 points, Markieff Morris 17 and Gerald Green 13. Atlanta, trying to hold the eighth spot in the East, lost its third in a row after a sea-

son-high five-game winning streak. Paul Millsap and DeMarre Carroll led the Hawks with 19 points apiece.

BULLS 89, PACERS 77

CHICAGO (AP) — Taj Gibson led five players in double figures with 23 points as the Chicago Bulls brushed off a poor offensive first half to rally past the Indiana Pacers.

Kirk Hinrich had 18 points on 7-for-13 shooting, Mike Dunleavy scored 13, Jimmy Butler 12 and Joakim Noah added 10 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

Gibson, who was 9 for 15 from the field, also had eight rebounds in 32 minutes off the bench.

The Bulls (40-31) pulled within two percentage points of Toronto (39-30) for third place in the Eastern Conference.

The win also prevented Indiana from clinching the Central Division title on Chicago's home court. The Pacers are looking to win consecutive division crowns for the second time since joining the NBA (1998-99 and 1999-2000). □

THUNDER 117, NUGGETS 96
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant had 27 points and eight assists to help the Oklahoma City Thunder defeat the Denver Nuggets.

Caron Butler scored 23 points, his highest total since the Thunder added him right after the trade deadline.

Reggie Jackson had 16 points and a career-high 11 assists, and Serge Ibaka added 15 points and seven rebounds for the Thunder, who won their fourth straight. □

Feed Your Bones

By, Dr. Carlos Viana

Matter comes in three states: solid, liquid and gas. Stop and think about glass and bones. Are they solid, liquid or gas? Which did you pick? If you choose solid for both, you are technically incorrect. We hear the objections screaming in your brains. Hold on; expand your reality of what you perceive.

Glass is technically a liquid much like water. So why does glass not behave like water? The answer is in the temperature. At ten below zero water flows nowhere; at a thousand degrees glass flows easily. Believe it or not, even at ambient temperatures, glass, pulled by the forces of gravity, flows ever so slowly down. There are old castles whose glass panes have flowed down so the bottom of the pane is much thicker than the paper thin top. Glass, you see, is a liquid that is solid or "frozen" at ambient temperatures.

What about breaking glass? Glass at ambient temperature, if forced too much will shatter into sharp pieces. Automobile "safety" glass is two panes of glass melted together with an inner core of plastic to make it more flexible, or shatter-proof. Automobile glass takes more force before breaking into dull pieces. Bones are more fluid than solid. Ask any orthodontist who uses braces to rearrange and straighten teeth. With time and constant pressure, teeth imbedded in solid bone jaws will slowly flow into a new space. Most of our calcium is found in bones and teeth. People require calcium daily. When there is a deficiency of cal-

cium in the body, these nutrients are "borrowed" from our bones and teeth. Our skeleton, which serves as our structural support, is actually constantly changing, maximizing strength and minimizing its mass to meet our physiological needs. Osteoporosis is a condition characterized by a loss of calcium and other minerals from the bones, making them more porous and brittle. Porous and brittle bones are more susceptible to break and fracture. People, aware that osteoporosis has become a big problem in developing countries, supplement with calcium and vitamin D for prevention.

Most physicians assume that the way to treat osteoporosis is to prescribe calcium. Years ago I predicted this assumption would come back to haunt the medical profession. The negative consequences of calcium supplementation are finally being realized and medical researchers now know that their assumptions have made bone problems worse.

Calcium supplements can raise heart risks in postmenopausal women. In the United States a prescription medication that has calcium and vitamin D that has been used by nearly 10 million people to help prevent or treat bone loss or osteoporosis, has been linked to 2,400 incidents of jaw bone decay or Osteonecrosis of the jaw. Additional people taking these drugs have claimed to have such debilitating pain that they have become bedridden or in need of walkers, crutches or wheelchairs. Understanding this over simplification of bone density

and calcium, I have developed a treatment approach in our clinic, using my biocompatible medical protocol. The first thing is to slow down the loss of calcium. Medicines that stimulate the thyroid and adrenal glands, as well as prolonged use of cortisone greatly affect calcium status. Steroids and artificial hormones, besides increasing your risk for some cancers, do not treat your bones well. Additionally, there are drugs that interfere with calcium absorption. Drugs used to decrease seizures and many stomach medicines prevent calcium absorption. Operations to stomach or intestines; removal of gallbladders; kidney disease; diabetes; and alcoholism all contribute to poor calcium absorption. Perhaps the biggest enemy to bone loss is cigarette smoking. These problems need to be corrected to stop mineral loss from your bones.

The second part of our protocol is to encourage the bones to become more flexible. Why do baby bones not break? They are not strong but they are flexible. Remember brittle glass shatters? Similarly, brittle bones shatter. Too much calcium in the bones makes them hard and brittle. The current test for osteoporosis, a bone-scan gives us your bone density. Bone density does not show flexibility. Thick, dense, but brittle bones will shatter and break easily.

We begin by replacing not just calcium, but all the minerals needed by your bones. There are two ways to accomplish this. The first is to feed your body the minerals. Magnesium helps maintain

normal muscle and nerve function, keeps heart rhythm steady, supports a healthy immune system, and keeps bones strong. Nutritionists know that, magnesium regulates calcium transportation in the body. New studies show that magnesium therapy appears to prevent fractures and results in a significant increase in bone density in menopausal women.

One of our ways to feed your bones is BONE SOUP: Use beef, chicken, turkey or fish, all animal bones are full of collagen important for strong healthy bones. Fill a large pot half way with any kind of bones, include a little meat. (Do NOT use Pork. Pork is NOT on any healthy diet!) Fill the other half with vegetables, especially a lot of parsley. Do NOT use potatoes, tomatoes or eggplant. Add 2 teaspoons of vinegar or half a cup of wine. Fill with water and boil vigorously for 3 hours. Keep only the broth. Add a package of un-flavored gelatin. Drink at least a cup a day alone or use a stock to cook with or add fresh vegetables to make soup.

Avoid acid forming foods; these cause your body to pull calcium out of your bones. Sugars, simple carbohydrates and processed foods are acid forming. Exercise in moderation is good for you. Excessive exercise can remove calcium from your bones. For joggers, running shoes are recommended to protect you from shin splints and knee problems. However, bones need to be stressed to be strong. Wearing shoes that absorb ALL stress is not good. Impact stimulates the flow of minerals for your bones.

Another thing you can do to force your bones to become stronger is grow muscles. Muscles control

bone production better than calcium supplementation. When muscles become bigger and stronger through exercise, the attached bone grows to support the musculature. Get the point! Your bones are alive. Drinking milk for your bone health is a myth that has no medical basis. Your skeleton is your body's support; our clinic is your health support. Do you want to protect your bones from osteoporosis? Come in so we can teach you how to take care and feed your bones naturally.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com "Prescriptions from Paradise"

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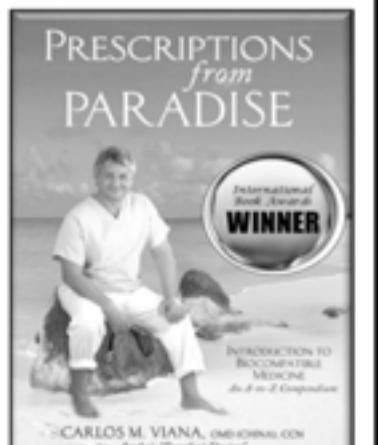
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HTC updates One phone, emphasizes metal design

ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — HTC is updating its flagship HTC One smartphone by giving it a larger screen, better software and more camera features.

The original HTC One received good reviews and was named the best smartphone of 2013 at the wireless industry's premier trade show in Barcelona, Spain, last month. But HTC has failed to translate that glowing praise into sales. HTC executives acknowledge that the company made several operational mistakes in releasing last year's phone, including the fact that customers of the leading U.S. wireless carrier, Verizon Wireless, weren't able to buy it until months after its launch. This time, the phone will be available right away through all the major carriers — and Verizon will get it first in stores.

Online orders start Tuesday, while most retail stores will get them by April 10. Verizon will have them in stores on Tuesday as well. The new phone, officially the HTC One (M8), will cost about \$200 to \$250 with a two-year service contract, or about \$650 without a contract. HTC also plans aggressive marketing, including the heavy use of cable and broadcast television ads. The goal is to reach tech-savvy consumers and trend-setters who are

likely to recommend the phone to friends. But HTC executives said it won't try to match Samsung dollar for dollar.

Samsung Electronics Co. currently dominates the global smartphone market. Last year, the Korean company had a 31 percent market share com-

spent in the same period, the latest for which figures were available. Although Samsung also makes TVs, refrigerators and other products, analysts believe much of the marketing is for newer products such as phones.

To break through, HTC plans to emphasize the

dent of HTC Americas, said HTC is doing more than launching another plastic phone with "maybe a software gimmick or two and then masking it all with expensive advertising."

Ben Wood, chief of research at telecoms analyst firm CCS Insight, said

tries to recover its position in the smartphone market, early indications are encouraging," Wood wrote. "However, there is no room for complacency." The new One will have a screen measuring 5 inches diagonally, up from 4.7 inches in last year's model. It will help software improvements designed to anticipate your needs, such as offering lunch recommendations when it's time for lunch. That will come through HTC's hub for personalized content, known as BlinkFeed. BlinkFeed itself will be more colorful and will continue to present news, social media updates and other items of interest.

HTC continues its philosophy of steering people away from the megapixel count in cameras, saying that more isn't necessarily better. Like the original model, the new HTC One has a 4 megapixel rear camera, which is low for high-end smartphones. Instead, HTC focuses on making the individual pixel sensors larger, so that they can capture more light and offer better shots in low-light settings. The front camera, for selfies, is improved, though — at 5 megapixels, compared with 2.1 megapixels before. The rear camera also has a second lens to capture depth information, which users can use to tweak the focus point in images later. □



Peter Chou, CEO of HTC, introduces the new HTC One M8, Tuesday, March 25, 2014 in New York.
Associated Press

pared with Apple Inc.'s 16 percent, according to Gartner. HTC had less than 5 percent.

Samsung, in particular, is notorious for its heavy marketing. The company spent nearly 4.6 trillion won (\$4.3 billion) in advertising in the 12 months through September, about four times the \$1.1 billion Apple

One's metal design. Samsung's phones typically have a plastic back panel, while Apple's iPhones use glass. At Tuesday's launch event, HTC compared the phone's smooth, polished finish with jewelry.

HTC took a few jabs at Samsung Tuesday without mentioning it by name.

Jason Mackenzie, presi-

the new phone is a "make or break device" for HTC. He said HTC has the advantage of coming out before Samsung's Galaxy S5 and Sony's Xperia Z2. The S5 is coming on April 11, while Sony hasn't announced a U.S. release date yet.

"While HTC still has a mountain to climb as it

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Stocks move higher on Wall Street; Sonic gains

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks got a lift Tuesday as health care companies bounced back after a heavy sell-off. Biotechnology stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose for the first time in five days after a sharp sell-off that was prompted by

they are reluctant to push stock prices higher before seeing more evidence that the economy is picking up. "The reasons to buy are certainly there," said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners, a wealth management company. "People are afraid to jump the

gained 0.8 percent. Biotechnology companies in the index rose 0.6 percent, led by Alexion Pharmaceuticals, which rose \$3.32, or 2.2 percent, to \$153. The index had lost 8.5 percent over the previous four days. The index has surged in the last year and is still up 45 percent over

company also reaffirmed its outlook for the year. Another big gainer was Sonic. The stock of the drive-in restaurant company jumped \$2.31, or 11 percent, to \$23.23 after the company posted earnings that exceeded the expectations of Wall Street analysts. Net income rose despite the unusually harsh winter weather.

There were also conflicting reports on the economy for investors to consider.

One report showed that fewer people bought new U.S. homes in February. Sales fell to the slowest pace in five months, a sign that the housing market has yet to recover fully from brutal winter weather, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. Meanwhile, an index measuring U.S. consumer confidence rose to the highest level in six years, another sign that the economy's prospects should brighten with warmer weather. Mixed signals have undermined investor's confidence in the economy after a strong fourth quarter last year suggested that U.S. growth was poised to accelerate, said Russ Koesterich, chief investment strategist for BlackRock. The S&P 500 has gained 0.3 percent this month, and is up 0.9 percent for the year.

"The investment thesis for 2014 was that the U.S. economy was going to start sprinting ahead," said Koesterich. "It's been a very sluggish start to the year ... people are not seeing the growth that they expected." □



A pack of "wolves" surround the Wall Street Bull, Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in New York, to celebrate the Blu-ray release of the hit movie The Wolf of Wall Street. Stocks got a lift Tuesday as health care companies bounced back after a heavy sell-off.

(Photo by Diane Bondareff/AP Images)

complaints from lawmakers over the cost of certain drugs. Merck and Boston Scientific were among the companies that rose.

The stock market has been flipping between gains and losses for the most of the month, as investors have bought stocks after every dip. While many investors are confident that economic growth will accelerate as the weather moderates following an unusually harsh winter,

gun."

The S&P 500 rose 8.18 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,865.62. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 91.19 points, or 0.6 percent, to 16,367.88. The Nasdaq composite gained 7.88 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,234.27. Nine of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 ended the day higher. Industrial stocks rose the most, 0.9 percent, followed by the energy and health care sectors, which each

the last 12 months.

Trading was choppy on Tuesday. Stocks started the day higher, dipped into the red at midday, then rose steadily throughout the afternoon.

McCormick was the best performing stock in the S&P 500 on Tuesday. The company, which makes spices, seasonings and condiments, rose \$3.69, or 5.5 percent, to \$71.20 after reporting earnings that beat analysts' estimates. The

Oil slides, stays in narrow range around \$100

The Associated Press

The price of oil slipped slightly on Tuesday as the market weighed potentially weaker global economic growth against continued disruptions of Libyan crude supplies.

Benchmark oil for May delivery fell 41 cents to close at \$99.19 in New York. Brent crude, used to set prices for international varieties of crude used by many U.S. refineries, rose 7 cents to close at \$106.99 in London. U.S. and Brent crude have hovered in narrow ranges over the past week as supply and demand concerns have balanced each other out. Global supplies have tightened somewhat as Libyan crude exports have fallen, but the world may need less oil if economic growth in China and Russia slows. Energy analyst Jim Ritterbusch wrote in a report Tuesday that trading patterns were sending off "signals of a balanced oil market." The U.S. and other Group of Seven countries vowed to launch coordinated sanctions on key parts of the Russian economy, which could include the energy industry, if Russian President Vladimir Putin presses further into Ukraine after the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. While that could eventually reduce Russian oil production, it could also reduce Russian demand for diesel, gasoline and jet fuel if the sanctions crimp the Russian economy.

A report on factory activity in China fell to an eight-year low in March, suggesting a further slowdown of the world's second-biggest economy and a possible decline in oil demand growth. A similar index for the U.S. fell from a four-year high. The Libya oil industry, meanwhile, continues to have production problems. The flow of its high-quality crude, which is coveted by European refiners, has been on-again, off-again since the 2011 civil war which ousted Moammar Gadhafi. For now, it has all but dried up. □

Intel buys fitness tracker maker Basis

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Chipmaker Intel has bought Basis Science, the startup behind the popular fitness tracker by the same name, for an undisclosed sum.

The deal, announced Tuesday by Santa Clara, California-based Intel Corp., comes as the still-nascent market for wearable gadgets is heating up. So far,

a lot of these gadgets are fitness and wellness trackers. This includes the Basis band, which tracks users' activity level, heart rate, sleep patterns and other data.

Just last week, Google released a version of its Android software tailored for high-tech watches and other wearable devices. Basis Science Inc. CEO Jef Holove will now be general manager at Intel's new

devices group. The Basis band will continue to be sold and the company's 60 employees will work on "future wearable initiatives," Intel said.

Intel Vice President Mike Bell said the acquisition provides Intel with an "immediate entry into the market" of wearable devices and he praised the "deep expertise" that Basis has in the area. The Basis band tracks more data

than many of the competing fitness bands out there. "Simple pedometers with lights on them aren't that interesting," Bell said.

Holove, meanwhile, said the move gives Basis access to Intel's resources at a time when there's "a lot happening" in the wearable technology market. Intel's stock rose 2 cents to \$25.48 in extended trading after closing up 34 cents at \$25.46. □

Disney's purchase of Maker a boon for LA startups

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Disney's \$500 million purchase of YouTube video producer Maker Studios is a sign that the entertainment industry's content and technology startups are coming of age and proving to be as valuable to Hollywood as app makers are to the giants of Silicon Valley.

The deal announced Monday also signals Hollywood's new openness to technological innovation, an acknowledgement that media giants don't have all the answers. The acquisition comes a month after The Walt Disney Co. launched a technology startup incubator called Disney Accelerator, which promises to seed 10 companies with \$120,000 each to develop ideas that'll have a big impact on entertainment and technology.

Disney's purchase price — which could hit \$950 million if Maker hits performance targets — also validates the increasing value of so-called "multichannel networks." Those are the mini media empires that provide funding and support

to video creators while taking a cut of ad revenue generated from views on YouTube. When people subscribe to these channels, they're notified when new videos are available. That helps networks gener-

vast majority from people aged 13-34. Other big network players include Machinima, Big Frame and Fullscreen, all based in the Los Angeles area because of its ready supply of actors, directors, camera

ing Smosh and Shut Up! Cartoons. "They can't take the time to find a Smosh. It's too hard. They can't take the risk of trying to figure out all the angles. They have to rely on the garages for innovation," she says. Dana Loberg, cofounder of San Francisco-based digital marketing company MovieLaLa, says the Maker deal provides encouragement to entrepreneurs like herself who are looking to the studios for business and investment.

"To have a buyer in Los Angeles like a studio that can make these big purchases is really big and good for the ecosystem of L.A.," she says. "I'm super happy to see studios are acquiring and paying attention to the digital space."

The purchase price sets a high benchmark for an L.A.-area startup, but it's not the highest. Yahoo Inc. bought Burbank-based search marketing company firm Overture in 2003 for \$1.6 billion. News Corp. bought Beverly Hills-based social network Myspace in 2005 for \$580 million. Electronic Arts Inc. paid \$680 million for Los Angeles-based mobile game

maker Jamdat in 2005 and Sony Corp. bought Aliso Viejo-based streaming game company Gaikai for \$380 million in 2012.

Still, it's a high-water mark for a YouTube-focused content creator. The closest comparable deal is DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc.'s \$33 million acquisition in May of AwesomenessTV, a West Hollywood-based multichannel network founded by veteran TV and movie producer Brian Robbins. According to securities filings, AwesomenessTV made \$11.4 million in revenue and \$2.4 million in gross profit in the final eight months of last year. But its growth in viewership has been explosive. DreamWorks CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg told analysts in February that monthly views had skyrocketed in a year from 11.2 million to 374 million while its subscribers had jumped from 3.3 million to 37 million. AwesomenessTV is also on track to meet its performance targets, and the company is now expecting to pay \$96.5 million of the maximum \$117 million it had promised as incentive pay after the deal closed. □



People stand near the entrance to the Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, Calif. Disney said Monday March 24, 2014, that it is buying YouTube channel operator Maker Studios for \$500 million as the family entertainment giant aims to stay in front of younger audiences who are increasingly watching short videos online.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

ate regular views on multiple devices, and enables them to deliver video ads on a massive scale.

Only a handful of such networks have reached the size of Maker, which went from startup status in 2009 to a network with 55,000 channels that generate 5.5 billion views a month, the

people and editors who are otherwise struggling to make it onto a big-budget Hollywood movie or TV show. "I think the big media companies just have a hard time being nimble on their own," says Gerry Laybourne, chairman of Defy Media, operator of YouTube channels includ-

JP Morgan's 'Mr. Fix-it' is the latest departure

JOSHUA FREED

AP Business Writer

Another high-ranking executive at JPMorgan Chase is departing, one who had been considered a possible successor to CEO Jamie Dimon.

Michael Cavanagh, who was co-CEO of the company's corporate and investment bank, is joining The Carlyle Group to become co-president and co-chief operating officer. "While we would prefer he stay at the firm, we are glad he's going to a valued client in Carlyle," Dimon said Tuesday in a news release. Cavanagh, 48, joined the global bank in 2004 and helped guide it through the financial crises that washed over Wall Street several years later. He came to be known as Dimon's "Mr. Fix-it." He said in a prepared statement

from the bank that "it was not without a lot of soul-searching that I decided it was time for me to take my career in a different direction." Now he joins the ranks of top executives who have departed JPMorgan in recent years. They include Charlie Scharf, who left to run JPMorgan's private equity arm Equity Partners in 2011, and who is now CEO of Visa. Heidi Miller left at the same time after running the company's international operations.

Jes Staley was another JPMorgan executive widely seen as a possible CEO. But he left last year for BlueMountain Capital after more than 30 years with the bank. And in April 2013, co-chief operating officer Frank Bisignano left to become CEO of payment processor First Data. JPMorgan's executive

bench was also thinned by the 2012 departure of Ina Drew. Drew, who had been chief investment officer, left within days of the disclosure of the bank's \$6 billion 'London Whale' trading loss.

Gerard Cassidy, a banking analyst with RBC Capital Markets, noted that JPMorgan's profits have risen during the period when executives have been leaving, suggesting that the company has a strong pool of replacements to draw on. Political scrutiny may be a factor, he said. Pay for bank executives has been closely watched since the financial crisis in 2008, and banks still need the Federal Reserve's approval to increase dividends or buy back stock. The latest round of approvals or rejections is due from the Fed on Wednesday. □

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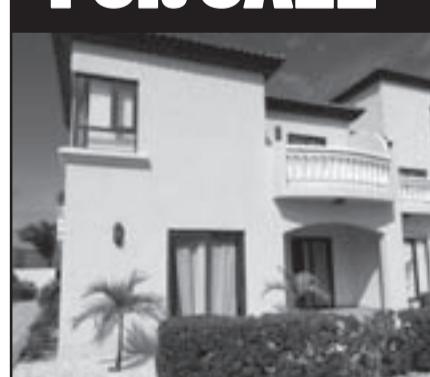
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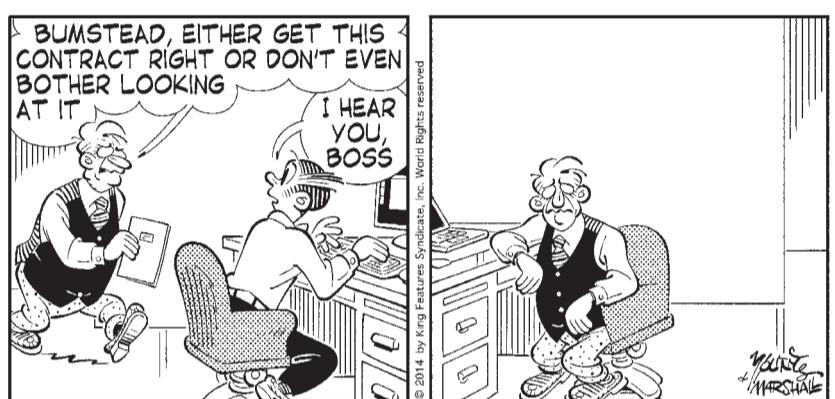
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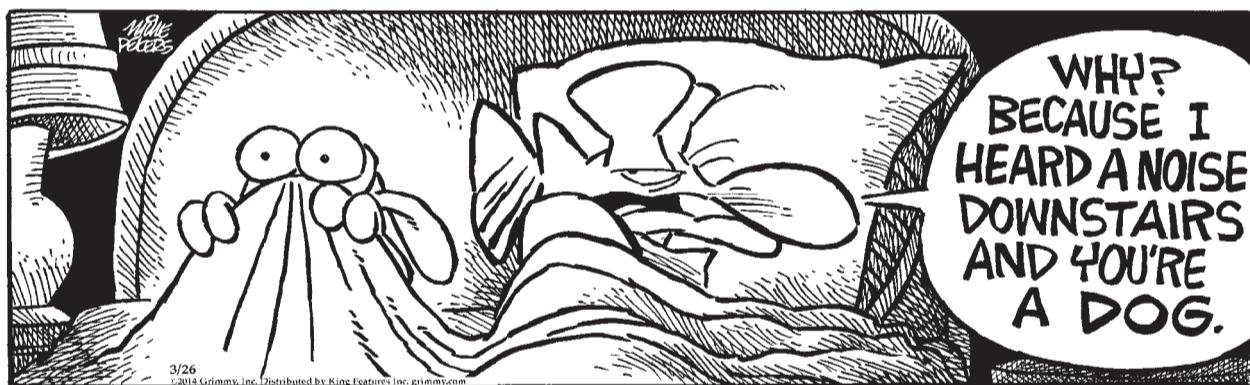
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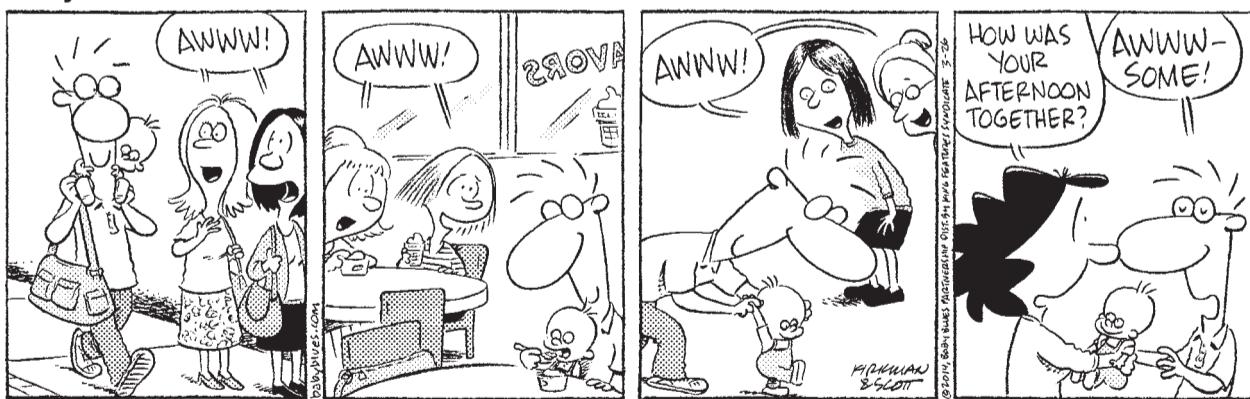
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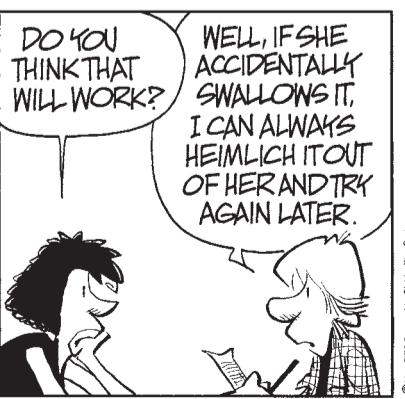
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6	7	3					
8			1					
2		5						
1			4					
8			1				9	6
5				6	2	7		9
6				1				
	8	2	7	3				

Difficulty Level ★★★

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3/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	2	5	3	6	9	7	4	8
3	4	8	5	2	7	1	6	9
9	6	7	4	1	8	3	5	2
7	3	4	1	9	6	2	8	5
8	9	1	2	5	3	6	7	4
6	5	2	8	7	4	9	3	1
2	1	3	7	4	5	8	9	6
5	7	6	9	8	1	4	2	3
4	8	9	6	3	2	5	1	7

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13		14	15						16			
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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/26/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L	I	N	T	G	R	A	B	S	S	H	O	P
O	D	O	R	R	A	D	I	O	C	A	G	E
F	L	U	E	A	T	O	L	L	H	I	R	E
T	E	N	T	A	N	T	S	L	A	B	O	R
D	O	E	F	E	R	A	L	R	E	F	E	R
S	C	A	L	D	C	I	D	R	A	C	E	S
T	A	M	E	B	A	R	D	E	R	I	D	E
O	B	I	D	E	L	E	T	D	V	I	E	
P	I	G	L	E	T	F	A	N	P	I	C	K
S	N	O	O	P	F	L	U	P	A	C	T	S
B	O	G	E	Y	D	E	C	E				
A	L	L	S	T	A	R	S	E	I	L	A	S
W	A	I	T	T	U	R	B	A	F	O	P	
A	C	M	E	G	E	A	R	S	I	S	L	E
Y	E	A	R	E	R	N	I	E	C	O	L	D

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3/26/14

4 Concurred
5 Presses
clothes
6 Part of the ear
7 Arden & Plumb
8 Dinner courses
9 Like very well
mashed spuds
10 Tattered cloth
11 Dirt
12 pop; soft drink
13 Required
14 Anchors a boat with ropes
15 Glee
16 Pleasant
17 Orchard
18 Three kings of biblical fame
19 Small bills
20 Anxiety
21 Chances
22 Pleasant
23 Orchard
24 Ballerina's support
25 Dine
26 Nut variety
27 Thurgood or Penny
28 Taps a golf ball
29 Brewer's tubs
30 Made a lap
31 Shoe bottoms
32 Put restrictions on
33 Not as neat
34 Cantaloupes and honeydews
35 Glee
36 Pleasant
37 Plays a role
38 Taps a golf ball
39 Brewer's tubs
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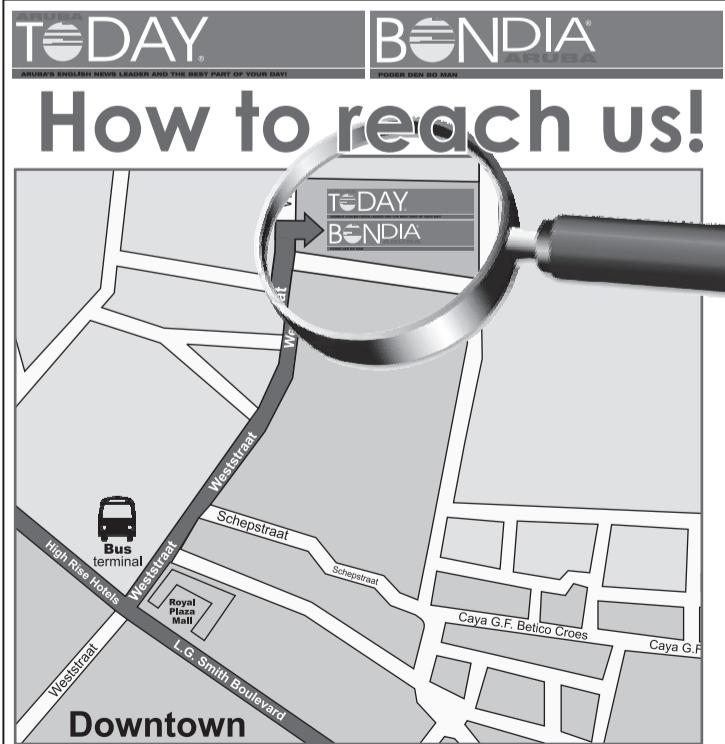
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California doctors work to speed up trauma care

ALICIA CHANG,
AP Science Writer

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California (AP) — Before the car-wreck victim reached the emergency room, doctors, residents and nurses at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center knew what to expect by glancing at their smartphones.

The details came in the staccato of text messages: A 35-year-old man had driven head-on into a bus. He suffered major chest injuries. His vital signs were crashing.

This was not just another day in the hospital. It was a laboratory billed as the "O.R. of the future," an ongoing experiment aimed at breaking down barriers that bog down care through open communication, better use of technology and teamwork.

In reality, trauma care is rarely this organized. But those who are prized for individual skills are increasingly learning that when it comes to treating trauma patients from accidents, natural disasters or terrorist bombings, communication and coordination can determine whether someone lives or dies.

At an office building less than a mile (1.6 kilometers) from the main Cedars-Sinai campus, doctors are experiment objects in simulations designed to test such skills.

There's a "mission control" room filled with video screens where trainers keep track of the action. The walls are see-through. Open workspaces are favored over cubicles.

At the heart of the lab is a room that could be outfitted as the ER, operating room or intensive care unit — depending on the practice of the day. Medical simulation labs have



In this Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014 photo, surgical residents along with experienced surgeons train on a mannequin at the Surgical Simulation and Training Laboratory in the Department of Surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Associated Press

evolved over the years, from simple lifelike models of body parts that doctors train on to full-blown replications of hospital rooms where trainees can practice different situations. The Cedars-Sinai space strives to speed up trauma care by eliminating workflow disruptions and honing communication skills.

"Health care today is delivered more by teams rather than by individuals. We have to educate folks in teamwork skills," said William McGaghie, who heads a professional training institute at Loyola University Chicago Health Sciences Division.

Registered nurse Anna Doyle is used to working with doctors who parachute into the latest crisis, whether it's tending to the victim of a gunshot wound or rollover accident. It's often a chaotic scene, and not everyone takes the time to get to know one another.

During a recent rehearsal, a resident piped up and asked for everyone's names. For a second, it felt like the first day of school as introductions were made.

Doyle said she found the introductions calming — even if it was just practice. "We had a personal moment ... that never happens," said Doyle, acknowledging that there's always a line of walking wounded in an emergency.

Armed with a \$4 million grant from the Defense Department, doctors and nurses at Cedars-Sinai have been testing ways to improve trauma care by running simulations at the newly opened lab that has the feel of a tech startup.

"This is a place for experimentation," surgeon-in-chief Dr. Bruce Gewertz said.

Before the lab opened,

Gewertz and his col-

leagues followed real trauma patients from the moment they were unloaded from the ambulance to their transfer to the ICU. Along the way, the team documented obstacles that slowed down care: Too many people spoke at the same time, prompting a nurse to ask a resident to speak up. A patient went for a CT scan only to find another patient already in the scanner. A resident's cellphone rang while scrubbing in.

Most of the time, researchers found, delays in care were caused by a lack of communication and logistical hurdles.

The goal is to get everyone on the same page during the "golden hour," a con-

cept borrowed from military medicine when time is of the essence.

The team recently partnered with a consulting firm to develop an in-house iPhone app that displays a patient's vitals and blasts out the information to the trauma team as members are assembling. There's also a text-messaging feature that allows doctors and nurses swarming in from various parts of the hospital to communicate with one another before the patient arrives.

It's too early to determine how much it would cost if the app was part of routine care, but Gewertz said it'll be relatively inexpensive, involving the cost of the phones and a monthly license fee for protected data storage.

On a recent weekday, the team's cellphones buzzed with the condition of the first "patient" of the day, the bus-crash victim.

Typically, doctors don't know vitals until a nurse scrawls them on a whiteboard. Apps can be helpful, allowing medical teams to "know the information en route so they're not coming in cold," said Pam Jeffries, president of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare and a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Jeffries is not involved in the Cedars-Sinai effort. □

Russian rocket blasts off for International Space Station

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan

(AP) — A rocket carrying a Russian-American crew to the International Space Station has blasted off successfully from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The Soyuz booster rocket lifted off as scheduled at 3:17 a.m. local time Wednesday (2117 GMT Tuesday), lighting up the night skies over the steppe with a giant fiery tail. It entered a designated orbit in about 10 minutes after the launch. All onboard systems were working flawlessly, and the crew was

feeling fine.

So far, there have been no signs that the tensions between the U.S. and Russia over Ukraine could affect the space program.

The crew — NASA astronaut Steve Swanson and Russians Alexander Skvortsov and Oleg Artemyev — are set to dock the Soyuz TMA-12M spacecraft at the station less than six hours after the launch and are scheduled to stay in orbit for six months.

Swanson is a veteran of two U.S. space shuttle missions, and Skvortsov spent

six months on the space outpost in 2010. Artemyev is on his first flight to space. The trio will be greeted by Japan's Koichi Wakata, NASA's Rick Mastracchio and Russia's Mikhail Tyurin, who have been at the station since November. Wakata is the first Japanese astronaut to lead the station.

NASA has relied on Russian Soyuz spacecraft to ferry crew to the orbiting outpost and back to Earth following the retirement of the U.S. shuttle fleet in 2011. □

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This Feb. 26, 2014 file photo shows Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones performing during their concert at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo. Associated Press

Israelis get satisfaction with Rolling Stones show

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli fans of the Rolling Stones have complained for years that they can't get no satisfaction. Until now.

Promoter Shuki Weiss said Tuesday the legendary band will play its first concert in Israel — in Tel Aviv on June 4.

Israeli rock fans often get the blues as their favorite bands skip the country on their world tours. Some musicians stay away due to politics while for others it's

a matter of logistics. Whenever a major band comes it's big news.

The Stones recently postponed their tour of Australia and New Zealand after the suicide of singer Mick Jagger's girlfriend.

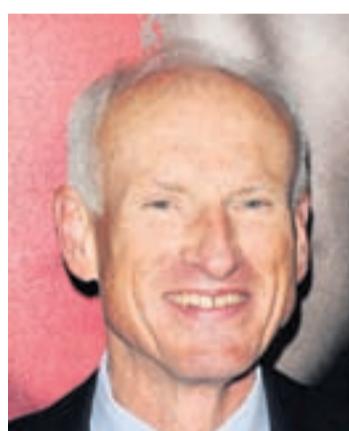
Other bands playing Israel this year include Neil Young, the Prodigy, Justin Timberlake and the Pixies, who canceled an earlier visit in 2010 apparently for political reasons. □

Actor writes his own obituary

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor James Rebhorn is having the last word.

The character actor who appeared in "Homeland" and "Scent of a Woman" penned his own obituary that appeared on his church's website in New Jersey. Rebhorn, a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Jersey City, died Friday at age 65 of skin cancer.

Rebhorn wrote that without his wife and two daughters "his life would have been little more than a vapor." He urged his children to mourn him only as long as necessary, because "they have much good work to do, and they should get



In this Nov. 4, 2009 file photo, actor James Rebhorn attends the premiere of "The Box", in New York.

Associated Press

busy doing it."

Rebhorn concluded that he was a lucky man in every way. □

Wahlberg guarantees a hit with 'Transformers'



Mark Wahlberg, a cast member in the upcoming film "Transformers: Age of Extinction," talks about the movie onstage at the Opening Night Presentation from Paramount Pictures at CinemaCon 2014 on Monday, March 24, 2014, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mark Wahlberg, star of the upcoming "Transformers: Age of Extinction," is promising the fourth installment of the Michael Bay-directed franchise will be a huge hit. "For moviegoers all over the world, I guarantee this will take it up a notch," Wahlberg said Monday at the annual movie-theater convention CinemaCon. Paramount Vice Chairman Rob Moore said Bay was hesitant to return to the franchise until they were able to zero in on the right story and cast that would capture his imagination. "Michael promised me it would be a very different, stand-alone movie, which it absolutely is," said Wahlberg. "It is bigger and better than the other three (films) combined. This will be the biggest movie of 2014."

In the action film, Wahlberg, who reteams with Bay after last year's "Pain and Gain," plays Cade Yeager, an automobile mechanic who discovers a rundown truck, which is really a transformer. Soon, he's the target of Autobots, Decepticons and the government.

With a series of "Transform-

ers" films, which featured a consistent cast including Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel and Tyrese Gibson, Wahlberg admitted he's feeling the pressure of stepping into the shoes of the other actors.

But he says he "had to jump at the opportunity because I really feel like it is probably the most iconic franchise in movie history." Wahlberg was joined on stage by his co-stars and CinemaCon Rising Stars award recipients Nicola Peltz, who plays his daughter, Tessa Yeager, and Jack Reynor, who portrays Tessa's boyfriend, Shane. But the surprise guest was Wahlberg's 10-year-old

daughter, Ella, who is not in the film but accompanied her dad to Vegas.

"This is (Ella's) first time in Vegas and hopefully her last," Wahlberg joked. The actor flexes his protective daddy disposition in the upcoming action film as well. His Cade comically nags daughter Tessa about her tiny shorts and the boyfriend he didn't know she had, offering a glimpse into the humor of the new film.

Though Bay was expected to attend CinemaCon to also plug "Age of Extinction," Wahlberg says the filmmaker was confined to the edit bay to finalize the film's special effects. Or could he have been afraid of another teleprompter mishap?

"He wanted me to make sure that you all understand that the effects are temp," added Wahlberg of the extended preview shown to the industry crowd. Unfinished or not, the impressive footage, including bigger, more powerful robots, sharper battle scenes and a fresh crop of good-looking movie stars, could be just the thing to drive home Wahlberg's No. 1 film prediction and cap Bay's massively successful series, which together have grossed over \$2.6 billion.

"Transformers: Age of Extinction" is due in the U.S. June 27. □

How Dwayne Johnson kept 'Hercules' look a secret

JESSICA HERNDON

AP Film Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It was extremely hard for Dwayne Johnson to keep his "Hercules" look under wraps while filming the Brett Ratner-directed movie in Hungary last year. But he did it for the greater good of the big reveal.

"As an actor, not showing my chiseled, extraordinary, handsome face was

a tremendous sacrifice for me," he joked on Monday before the premiere of the film's trailer at Las Vegas movie-theater convention CinemaCon.

"Paramount, MGM and I made a pact," he added. "We wanted to make a massive global and entertaining movie while doing all we could to never reveal the actual look of Hercules." □

Rare Tennessee Williams story published

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Before his mother became the model for Blanche DuBois of "A Streetcar Named Desire" and his sister the inspiration for Laura Wingfield of "The Glass Menagerie," Tennessee Williams drew upon a college girlfriend — if only in name — to tell a story of desire, drunkenness and regret. "Crazy Night" is a work of short fiction unseen by the general public until this month's release in the spring issue of The Strand Magazine, a quarterly based in Birmingham, Mich. The story is narrated by a college freshman who confides about his romance with a senior, Anna Jean. Williams, while attending the University of Missouri at Columbia, briefly dated fellow student Anna Jean O'Donnell and wrote poetry about her.

"It ('Crazy Night') seems to have been written when Williams was rather young, probably around the 1930s," said Strand managing editor Andrew



This Nov. 11, 1940 file photo shows playwright Tennessee Williams at his typewriter in New York. "Crazy Night", a work of short fiction by Williams will be printed in the spring issue of The Strand Magazine, a quarterly based in Birmingham, Mich.

Associated Press

Gulli, who has previously unearthed works by Mark Twain, Joseph Heller and Robert Louis Stevenson.

"The funny thing is that Williams in his notebooks and memoirs went into a lot of detail about his love affairs but with Anna Jean he made only a passing mention. Could this be the missing piece of the puzzle?"

Gulli found the story in the

University of Texas at Austin's Harry Ransom Center, one of the country's top literary archives.

"Crazy Night" is set on an unnamed campus in the early '30s, after the stock market crash of October 1929 and before the 1933 repeal of Prohibition, when "students graduating or flunking out of college had practically every reason

for getting drunk and little or nothing that was fit to drink." The title refers to a ritual at the end of spring term during which students are expected to binge on alcohol and sex, a bacchanal "feverishly gay" on the surface but "really the saddest night of the year." "There is a theme of disappointment, the old 'mendacity theme' from 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,'" Gulli says. "He could show how beneath the cloak of respectability his characters had horrible insecurities and dark secrets. Williams was a master of showing the desperation and need humans have for companionship and was equally skilled at showing how relationships go sour and lead to cynicism."

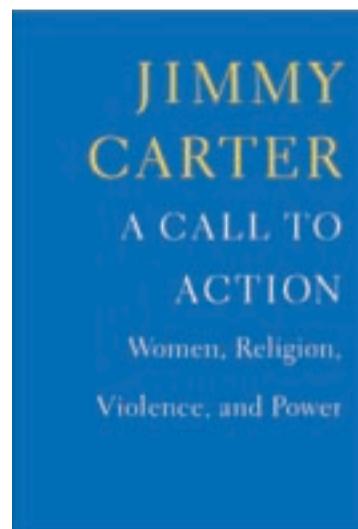
Williams was celebrated for his plays, but he wrote short stories for decades, many appearing in the 1985 anthology "Tennessee Williams: Collected Stories." In the book's introduction, Williams' friend Gore Vidal wrote that the stories were essentially a fictionalized di-

ary for Williams, who died in 1983. "Whatever happened to him, real or imagined, he turned into prose," Vidal wrote. "Except for occasional excursions into fantasy, he sticks pretty close to life as he experienced or imagined it. No, he is not a great short story writer like Chekhov but he has something rather more rare than mere genius. He has a narrative tone of voice that is wholly convincing."

Williams' language in "Crazy Night" is sensual and romantic, with the kind of dramatic turns of phrase that Blanche DuBois might have used, whether referring to a "black cloud of incipient terror" in the narrator's mind or savoring the night air that "came in cool and sweet, faintly scented with a flowering vine."

Even in more restrictive times, Williams wrote openly about sex, and "Crazy Night" includes a scene in which male students, most of them freshmen and virgins, are brought into a room and paired off with girls. □

Carter writes about prejudice against women



This book cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows, "A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power," by Jimmy Carter. Associated Press

PETER JAMES SPIELMANN
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — "A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power" (Simon and Schuster), by Jimmy Carter. In his new book, "A Call to Action," former Presi-

dent and longtime Baptist church deacon Jimmy Carter says prejudice and discrimination against women and girls is perpetuated in America and around the world by religious authorities who twist holy texts to assert male dominance.

Carter famously broke with the mainstream Southern Baptist Convention in 2000, denouncing it for drifting into doctrines he called sexist and racist. He now worships at a New Baptist Covenant church in his hometown of Plains, Ga. The 89-year-old Carter recalls how in his Deep South childhood the Bible was cited to justify white supremacy and asserts that patriarchs now twist the Bible, Koran and other Scriptures to denigrate and control women. As a Bible teacher for more than 70 years, he tackles some of the passages cited by

male supremacist Christians, notably St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, which preaches: "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church ..." Carter contrasts this and other Old Testament writings that consigned women to male-property status with the four Gospels that "never report any instance of Jesus' condoning sexual discrimination or the implied subservience or inferiority of women." While Carter's case that Jesus' example in the New Testament demonstrated fairness and equality is persuasive, Christians who cling to chauvinist Bible passages are unlikely to listen to his interpretation of Scripture. After assigning the cause of much of today's discrimination to religious intolerance meant to preserve male

dominance, Carter documents the vast array of effects. In one of his shortest, but perhaps most chilling chapters, "The Genocide of Girls," Carter notes that prenatal screening has enabled parents in patriarchal societies to "select" the sex of their children by preventing the birth of girls. Amartya Sen, a Nobel Prize laureate from India, estimated in 1990 that more than 105 million female infants worldwide had been aborted or killed in a practice called "femicide" or "gendercide." Carter says laws against the practice in China, India and South Korea have been ineffective. Other chapter titles offer a bleak summary of the price that women and girls pay for patriarchy: Sexual Assault and Rape, Violence and War, Slavery and Prostitution, Spouse Abuse, "Honor" Killings, Genital Cutting, Child Marriage

and Dowry Deaths, and Politics, Pay and Maternal Health, in which Carter focuses on problems of economic and health care inequality in the U.S.

Carter admits that outsider groups like his Carter Center cannot parachute values in "without the support of the entire community, especially including traditional chiefs and other male leaders."

But he cites hopeful efforts by a group the Carter Center has worked with called Tostan ("breakthrough" in the West African language of Wolof), which has made inroads against genital cutting and child marriage in African communities.

And he writes that by bringing men into the discussion with women and enlisting fair-minded religious leaders, progress has been made against obstacles that had seemed insurmountable. □

Palmy Days for Jerry



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2014 New York Times

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - I ask Jerry if he's ready for Hillary.

Back in 1992, when he ran for president against Bill Clinton, Jerry Brown was remorseless in taking on "Slick Willie," as he called him, and his wife, pelting them with accusations of corruption and conflicts-of-interest in Arkansas. In one seething exchange on the debate stage, Clinton snapped: "You ought to be ashamed of yourself for jumping on my wife. You're not worth being on the same platform as my wife."

In the governor's office over coffee, I ask a more mellow Brown how he would feel about a Hillary coronation. "The polls say that she's in an extremely strong position," he says. "So prominent in her husband's administration, then a senator, then secretary of state. Those are powerful milestones. I don't see anyone challenging her at this point."

So how does he reconcile what he said in 1992 and now? Have the Clintons changed, or has Brown changed? He crosses his arms and gives me a flinty look, finally observing: "In retrospect, after we see all the other presidents that came afterwards, certainly, Clinton handled his job with a level of skill that hasn't been met since."

Take that, President Obama. And could he see his old nemesis Bill, who endorsed Gavin Newsom for governor instead of Brown in 2009, as First Lad? "Wherever he is, he will fill up the room, that's for sure," he replies. "He has a lot of political energy." It's an astonishing thing, but the prickly Jerry Brown has, at long last, become something of a diplomat. He's 75, balding and gray. But he's still slender and fit, and remains an eclectic party of one.

Two weeks ago Brown ended up on the opposite side of two key planks in the California Democrats' platform - banning fracking and legalizing pot.

Like Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Brown is wary about legalized pot and wants to chart the evolution of the revolution. As he said on "Meet the Press," "How many people can get stoned and still have a great state or a great nation?" I ask the man formerly known as Governor Moonbeam if he ever smoked pot. "We're dealing with the seventh largest economy in the world, and I'm not going to deal with these marginal issues," he said primly. Actually, it's the eighth, but maybe he is anticipating a move up.

His lieutenant, Gavin Newsom, told Ronan Farrow on MSNBC that Brown was wrong on the pot

issue and should not use words like "potheads," "stoners" and "hippies." But Brown says that his remarks to David Gregory were "more of a wry comment" than "a policy pronouncement."

I asked the governor if he had read Linda Ronstadt's memoir, in which she praised her former beau as "smart and funny, not interested in drinking or drugs." She made note of his famous frugality, recalling that once, when they were going to dinner at Rosemary Clooney's, Jerry wanted to take a box of roses that had been sent to Ronstadt, remove the card and give it to Clooney.

At first Brown clams up, but then he relents. "I visit her at Christmas-time" sometimes, he said. "She's thoughtful and has a lot to say." As he raises a ton of money to run for an unprecedented fourth term, which he first announced in a casual tweet, the famous rebel seems strangely content.

He's never seen "Chinatown," but he's trying to deal with the drought by fixing the state's unsustainable water transport system, which his dad helped put in place and he himself tried to fix 30 years ago. And he's still fighting for his dream of a high-speed train from Sacramento to San Diego, a project bogged down in lawsuits. He takes a white model of the train from the window and lovingly places it in the middle of a big picnic table, noting that he has liked trains since he was a kid.

He said he wasn't upset when Newsom joined the opposition last month. "I don't think he has repeated the comment, do you?" he asked an aide.

His office is full of black-and-white pictures of his father, the former governor of California - two with a stunningly young-looking JFK just before he became president. The onetime Jesuit seminarian is low-key about his role in bringing California back from \$27 billion in the red three years ago to a budget surplus of several billion.

"I had a good hand," he murmurs, "and I played it reasonably well." He says he thinks his dad would have "enjoyed" seeing his son's success, achieved partly by belatedly adopting some of Pat Brown's more social ways with lawmakers. I ask Brown what he thinks about the young Silicon Valley entrepreneurs who have complained that the homeless are ruining the aesthetic of San Francisco. "There's not a lot of people who like homeless on the street," he said. "I wouldn't tie that to Silicon Valley."

We're meeting the same day that Rand Paul is making a speech at Berkeley warning about the NSA's "assault" on privacy, and Brown says he also worries about that.

"There's a tendency to totalism, total information, and once you have total information you're making it easier for total control," he said. He also finds Tea Party obstructionism "extremely ominous and dangerous." Asked what he has done for fun lately, the looser Governor Brown replies that he helped his wife and adviser, Anne Gust Brown, pick out some clothes, noting: "I like elegance, more classic, not too flamboyant with colors." □



He Was Supposed to Take a Photo



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

© 2014 New York Times

One of Raven Kaliana's first, hazy memories is of her parents taking her to a professional photo studio, telling her to be good, and then leaving her with a child pornographer. In front of a camera, a man raped her.

She thinks she was 4 years old. Throughout elementary school in the American West, Kaliana's parents took her to studios during vacations or over three-day weekends. Her parents said that these forays paid the bills and that she'd get over it.

"Around the time I was 11, my value started going down because I was beginning to look more like an adult," Kaliana recalls. "So they started putting me in more dangerous films, things involving torture or gang rape or extreme fetishes."

Yet Kaliana triumphed: She says that in college she escaped her parents' control, changed her name and began fighting child abuse. She has produced a puppet play and short film, "Hooray for Hollywood," based on her own traumatic experiences.

Now living in Britain, Kaliana is trying to use the film - which employs puppets and is not at all explicit - to raise awareness about child sexual abuse and to encourage frank talk about the problem.

"This happens all over the world; it happens in America," she said during a visit to New York. "It's

not necessarily children being kidnapped and swept away. A lot of times it's someone the child trusts: family members or a minister or a coach."

The child pornography industry is a facet of child abuse that has exploded with the rise of the Internet, and it's widely misunderstood.

A Justice Department study reports that 21 million unique computer IP addresses were tracked while sharing child pornography files in 2009, more than 9 million of them in the United States. It's not clear how many individuals that represented because some people may have used multiple computers.

It's also not clear how many children are abused to generate child pornography, but, in 2011, law enforcement authorities in the United States turned over 22 million such images and videos to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to try to identify the victims.

With enormous frustration, police watched one girl they called Vicky being abused year after year; she grew up in wrenching images on their screens. Finally, she was located and her father was arrested for exploiting her. There's sometimes a perception that child pornography is about teenage girls pulling off their tops.

That's not remotely what we're talking about.

"If we were starting over, we wouldn't call it child pornography," says Ernie Allen, president of the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "This is different. This is not pornography. These are crime scene photos. These are photos of the abuse of a child."

Of the images the national center has examined, 76 percent involve prepubescent children with no signs of sexual maturation. One in 10 are infants or toddlers.

More than three-quarters of image series involve sexual penetration, and 44 percent involve bondage or sadomasochism.

"People don't have an understanding of the kind of content and how horrific it is," said Julie Cordua, executive director of Thorn, an organization that uses digital strategies to fight sex trafficking. "This is the documentation of the worst kinds of abuse against a child."

Law enforcement has made progress, and child pornography is no longer readily available for sale on the Internet or easy to find in Web searches or on public websites. Instead it is typically traded on peer-to-peer networks or inside password-protected chat rooms.

To try to keep out investigators, sometimes the only way to get access is to provide a new photo in which the abuser has written his name on the child.

Just a few days ago, authorities made 14 arrests in connection with a password-protected child pornography website that had 27,000 members. More than 250 children, the youngest 3 years old, were identified in 39 states as having been abused in photos on the site.

I'm also sympathetic to the anonymous hacker who recently took over an entry site to the "dark Web" - used for all kinds of illicit purposes - and scrubbed it of child pornography links.

While it's important to punish perpetrators, it's also critical to offer help to pedophiles who want it, so as to prevent abuse. Germany has public service announcements advertising a phone number for pedophiles to call to get counseling, and that's worth trying here.

As for Kaliana, she is no longer in touch with her parents, for whom she has complex feelings that include fear.

"When I was a child, I loved them very much even though they did awful things to me," she said. "They were in denial. I feel compassion for them."

Contact Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/NickKristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □



Stir-fried cumin lamb, one of the few Asian-style lamb dishes to become popular in the U.S., in New York. The dish, from northwest China, is fragrant with the heat of chile pods, peppercorns and toasted cumin.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

Lamb at Play in a Field of Cumin

MELISSA CLARK

© 2014 New York Times

When it comes to cooking lamb, I lean European. I dream of a Provençal-style roasted leg scented with herbs, or the seared little Italian lamb chops that scorch your fingers when you pick them up.

Here's what doesn't immediately pop into my head: Asian-style lamb dishes, mostly because not that many have joined the standard Chinese-Thai-Vietnamese repertory here in the United States.

There is, however, one major exception, and it's a good one: cumin lamb.

Stir-fried cumin lamb is a dish popular in China's autonomous Xinjiang region, in the country's northwest. And I've been seeing it more often on Chinese, particularly Sichuan, menus in New York, where I order it whenever I get the chance.

At its best, there is an equal

ratio of fiery dried red chili pods to thin slices of lamb. The scent of toasted cumin and Sichuan peppercorns wafts over your plate and thrums through every bite. Some kind of vegetable (bell peppers, onions, celery) is usually added to break up the meaty heat. I like onions for contrasting sweetness.

Even at home, you can make a version that is spicy enough to make you sweat, in the best possible way.

Lamb loin, boneless leg of lamb and lamb shoulder chops are all good cuts to stir-fry and are among the easiest to find at the supermarket. The loin is the most tender and most expensive. Leg meat is usually very lean and simple to cut into strips for stir-frying. The shoulder chops, which can have more fat and sinew and are usually sold on the bone, require the most knife work. But all are good

here; just take care not to overcook them. (The loin is the most forgiving.) Whichever one you choose, cutting it when it's very cold makes the work go faster. Try putting the meat in the freezer for 15 minutes before pulling out your knife.

You'll also need cumin in both the whole-seed and ground-powder forms, which offer different aspects of cumin flavor and texture. Sichuan peppercorns and whole red chili pods are the most authentic here, but regular peppercorns and crushed red chili flakes would still give you a lamb dinner at its spiciest and fastest.

Cumin Lamb Stir-Fry

Time: 35 minutes

Yield: 4 servings

1 tablespoon whole cumin seeds

2 teaspoons Sichuan or regular peppercorns
1 pound boneless lamb

1 teaspoon ground cumin
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
4 to 8 dried red chilies (or substitute 1/2 teaspoon or more crushed red pepper)
1 large white onion
1 bunch (about 8) scallions, trimmed

2 tablespoons peanut oil
3 large garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 1/2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 1/2 tablespoons Chinese cooking sherry (Shaoxing rice wine) or dry sherry
2 cups fresh cilantro, leaves and stems
Rice, for serving

1. In a dry skillet over medium heat, toast cumin seeds and peppercorns until fragrant, 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer to a mortar and pestle, and crush lightly.

2. Slice meat across the grain into 1/2-inch-thick strips. Toss meat with crushed spices, ground cumin, salt and dried chilies.

3. Peel onion and halve it

through the root end. Trim the ends and cut each half lengthwise into 1/2-inch-thick slices. Cut white and light green parts of scallions into 2-inch lengths. Thinly slice scallion greens; keep separate.

4. Heat a very large skillet or wok over high heat until screaming hot, about 5 minutes. Add oil. Toss in onion and the scallion bottoms.

Cook, tossing occasionally, until vegetables are lightly charred but still crisp, about 2 minutes. Transfer to a bowl.

5. Add lamb and chilies to skillet. Cook, tossing quickly, until meat begins to brown. Add garlic, soy sauce and sherry. Cook until most of the liquid has evaporated and lamb is cooked through, about 2 minutes. Toss in onions and scallions. Remove from heat and mix in cilantro and scallion greens. Serve hot, over rice. □